PRIVATE EYE

£1

No. 962
Friday
30 October '98

NEW CHARLES BIOGRAPHY

FREE PINOCHET
with every issue

"What say we duck inside for a Hen?"

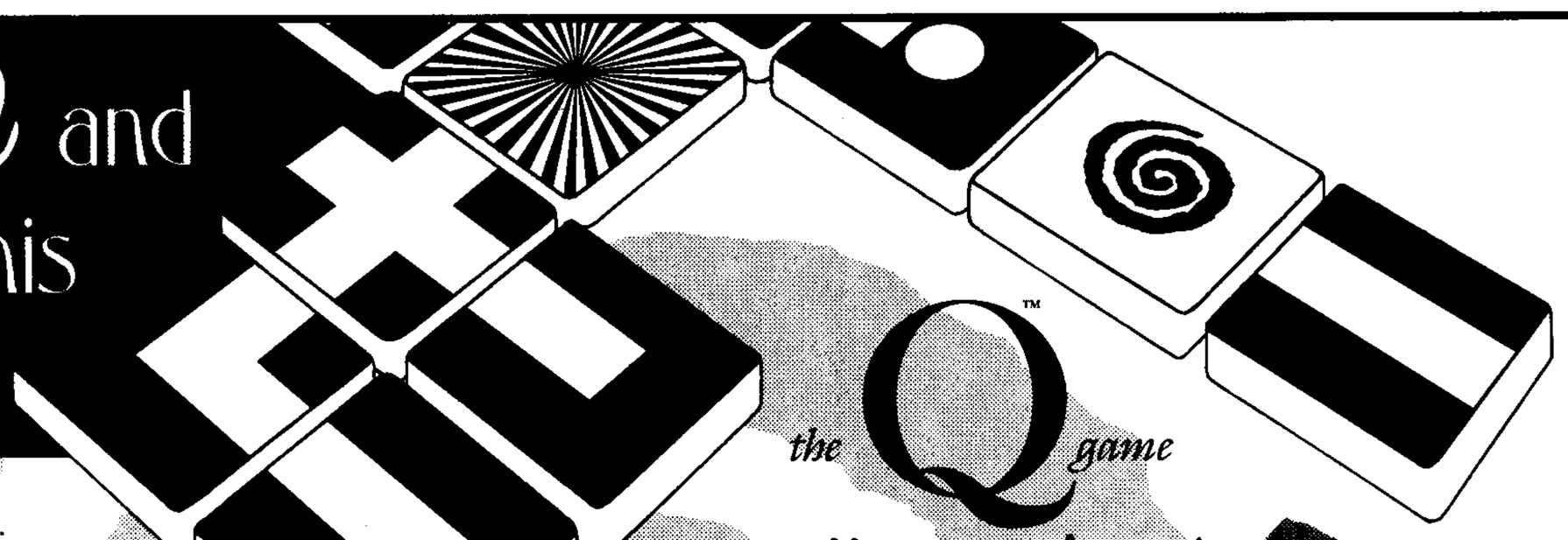
A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle blend of flavours.

A most Gratifying Ale.

Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.

www.oldspeckledhen.co.uk

Be Original and Brilliant this Christmas!



the Q *game*

...a compelling new board game of visual strategy!

Thinking Games, PO Box 2939, Brighton BN1 3NS. Tel: (01273) 739654

IT'S COMPLETELY NEW!
So new, in fact, that it's not in the shops yet. Only launched in November this year, it's at the leading edge of board game innovation and design.

IT'S STUNNING!
Invented by an artist and expert in visual perception, the Q game is striking, tactile, elegant, very black and white, and very different. It makes a stunning gift.

IT'S FASCINATING!
Playing the Q game takes cunning, insight, logic and a bit of luck! The rules are easy to learn, but it's fiendishly competitive. Play it once, and you're hooked!

THREE SUPERB GAMES IN ONE!
Unlike many games, the Q game provides a completely new challenge every time. What's more, it can be played on three different levels, to suit 2 to 4 players of all ages and experience.

THE QUALITY IS OUTSTANDING
Every component in the Q game is produced to unusually high standards of quality. The pieces are extra chunky, the racks are extra solid... even the bag is made of luxury velvet and lined in satin.

ORDER NOW! MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!
This offer is exclusive to Thinking Games, so order today... and surprise someone with your originality and brilliance this Christmas!

If you're not completely satisfied, return the game to us within 30 days and we will happily refund your money.

EACH GAME INCLUDES: 106 pieces; 1 velvet bag; 1 game board; 1 book of rules; 4 racks; 1 score book; and a timer.

☎ Credit card holders may telephone orders at any time on (01273) 739654
e-mail: sales@thinkinggames.com

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

To: Thinking Games, PO Box 2939, Brighton BN1 3NS.

Please send me _____ set(s) of the Q game at £29.99 each plus £3.85 for packing and postage.

☐ I enclose a cheque/PO for £_____ made payable to Thinking Games.

☐ Please debit my Visa/Delta/Mastercard/Eurocard/Switch the sum of £_____

My card Number is: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Expiry Date: ☐☐☐☐ Switch Issue Date: ☐☐☐☐ Switch Issue No: _____

Signature: _____ Mr/Mrs/Miss: _____ Initials: _____

Surname: _____ Address: _____

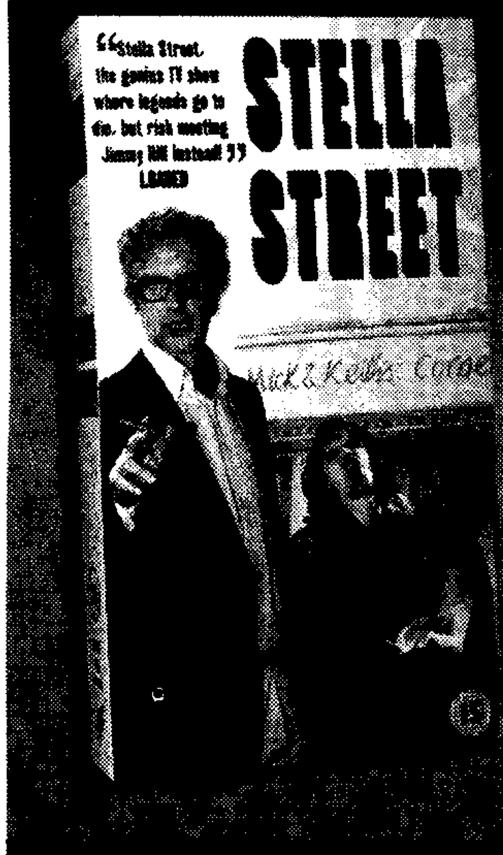
_____ Postcode: _____

Day Tel: _____ Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

“Stella Street, the genius TV show where legends go to die, but risk meeting Jimmy Hill instead!” LOADED

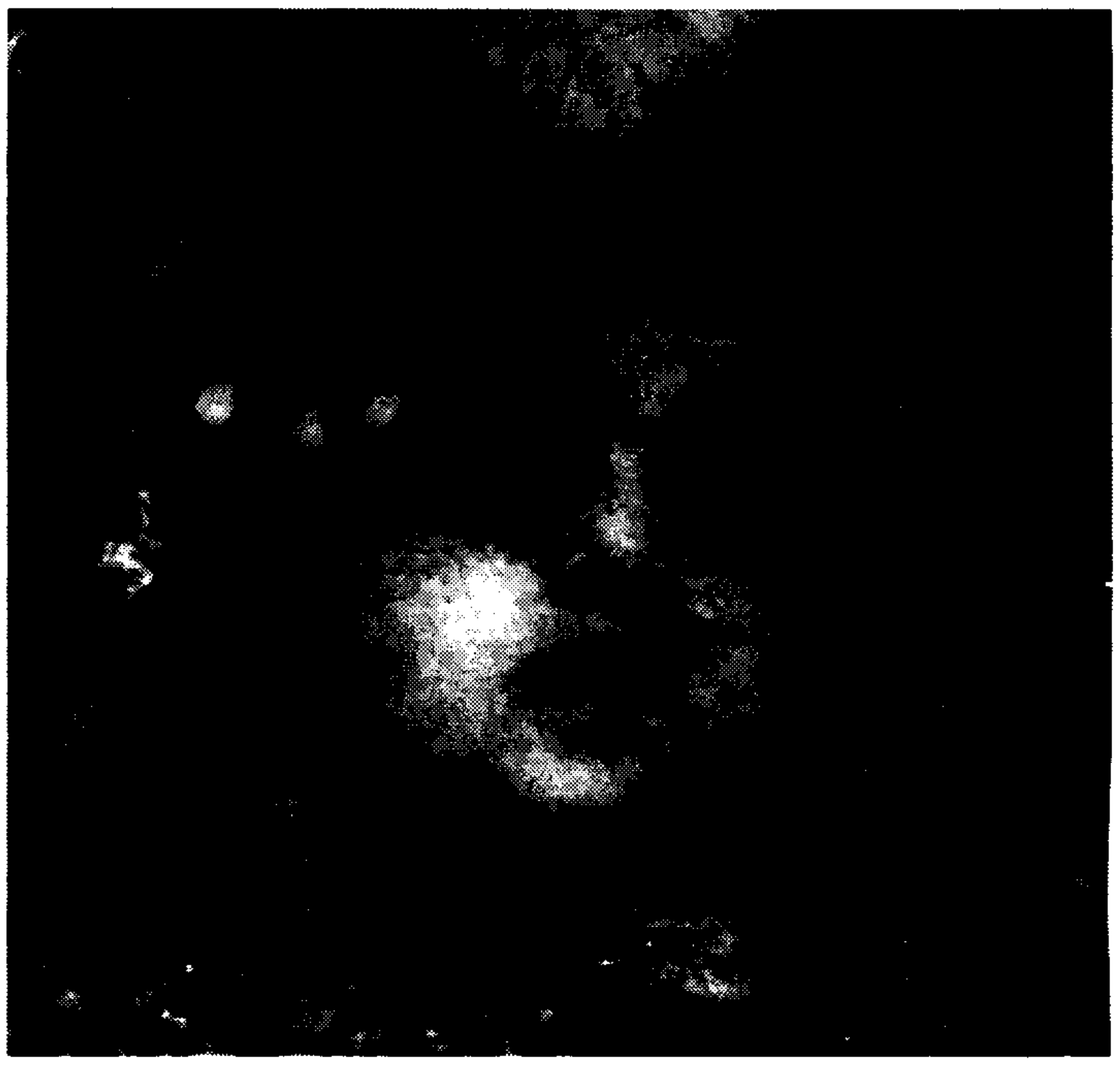
Available from all good video stockists

“Stella Street is the coolest, cultiest comedy on the box!” SKY MAGAZINE



STELLA STREET

THE FIRST SERIES OF THE CULT TV SHOW OUT NOW ON VIDEO



CHILDREN DYING IN PAIN AND FEAR NEED YOUR HELP NOW.

Many children in Bhopal have never been able to run, or play games like hop-scotch. Some have not lived one day free of pain. Horrifying births are still taking place. Children die every week. We started a free clinic because nobody else was helping. Our clinic, Sambhavna Clinic, is funded solely by the donations of kind individuals. Our young patients rely on you. Please please please help us.

PLEASE HELP. PLEASE SEND A GENEROUS DONATION TO

FREEFONE 0800 316 5577

OR FILL IN AND SEND BACK THE COUPON BELOW. PE198

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....**Postcode**.....

Please charge my MasterCard/Visa/Other card number:

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry Date: ☐☐-☐☐ **Or please send your cheque to:**

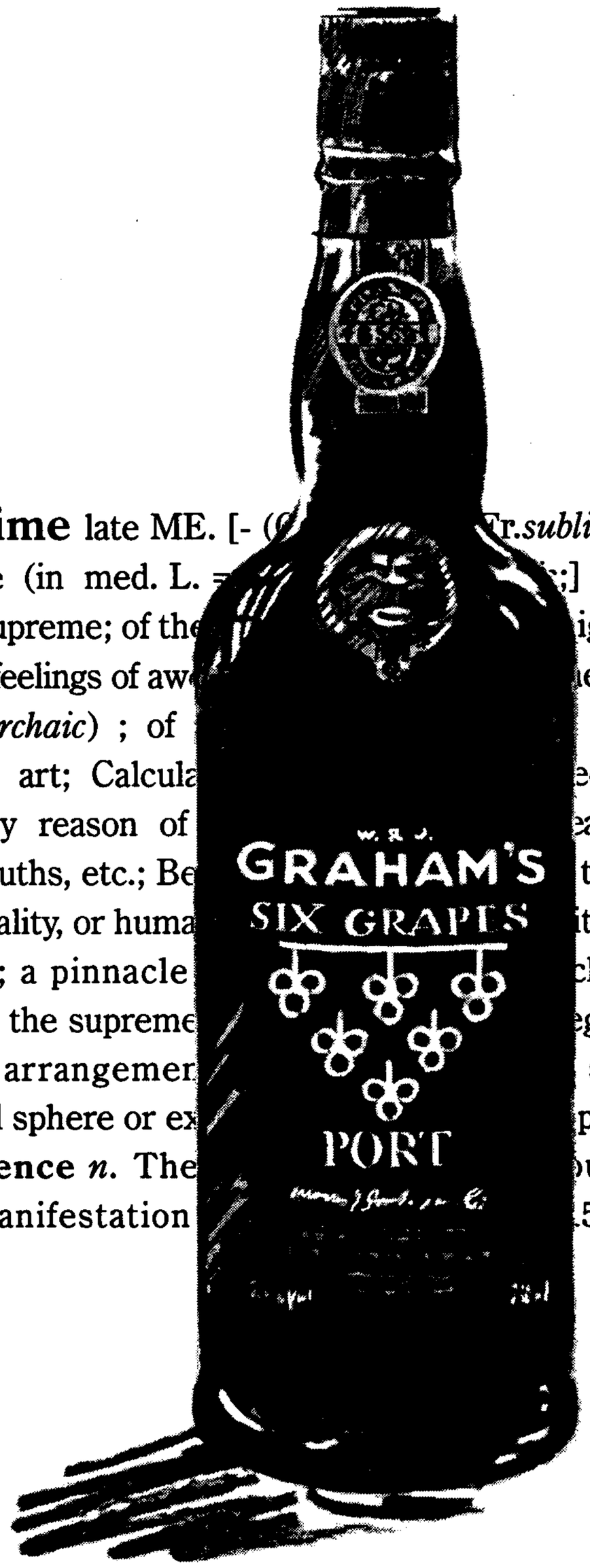
Pesticides Trust/Bhopal Account, Eurolink Centre, 49 Effra Rd, London SW2 1BZ. Reg Charity No 327215.

THE BHOPAL MEDICAL APPEAL

W. & J.

GRAHAM'S

ESTABLISHED 1820



Sublime late ME. [- (O… Fr.*sublimer* or L. *sublimare* lift up, elevate (in med. L. =…;] **1.** *adj.* exalted, lofty; majestic; supreme; of the…ighest or noblest nature; awakening feelings of aw…eration; raised up, lifted on high (*archaic*) ; of … (*literary*); Of things in nature and art; Calcula…eep reverence, or lofty emotion, by reason of …eauty, or grandeur 1700; Of ideas, truths, etc.; Be… the highest regions of thought, reality, or huma…ity 1634. **2.** *n.* that which is sublime; a pinnacle …chievement, surpassing excellence, the supreme…egree, the lofty or grand, in thought, arrangemer… style; **3.** *v.* To raise to an elevated sphere or ex…piritually) sublime 1609. **Quintessence** *n.* The…urest or most perfect form or manifestation …570. **Quintesse-ntial** *a.*

The Quintessential Port.

Gnome

THE SCOOP of the century – **ARGIES GROVEL TO TONY** – as revealed in the Daily Gnome last week has been attacked by our rivals for no other reason than that it is entirely untrue.

President Menem of Argentina made his meaning absolutely clear to the Daily Gnome when his spokesman told our editor, Mr Yellow: "The President is very sorry but he does not have time to speak to you at the moment. He is busy writing a speech demanding the return of Las Malvinas to their rightful owner, ie: Argentina."

What else can this amount to but an abject apology to readers of the Daily Gnome for the illegal invasion of the Falkland Islands?

And how can it have been wrong for us to turn our conversation with President Menem into a World Exclusive?

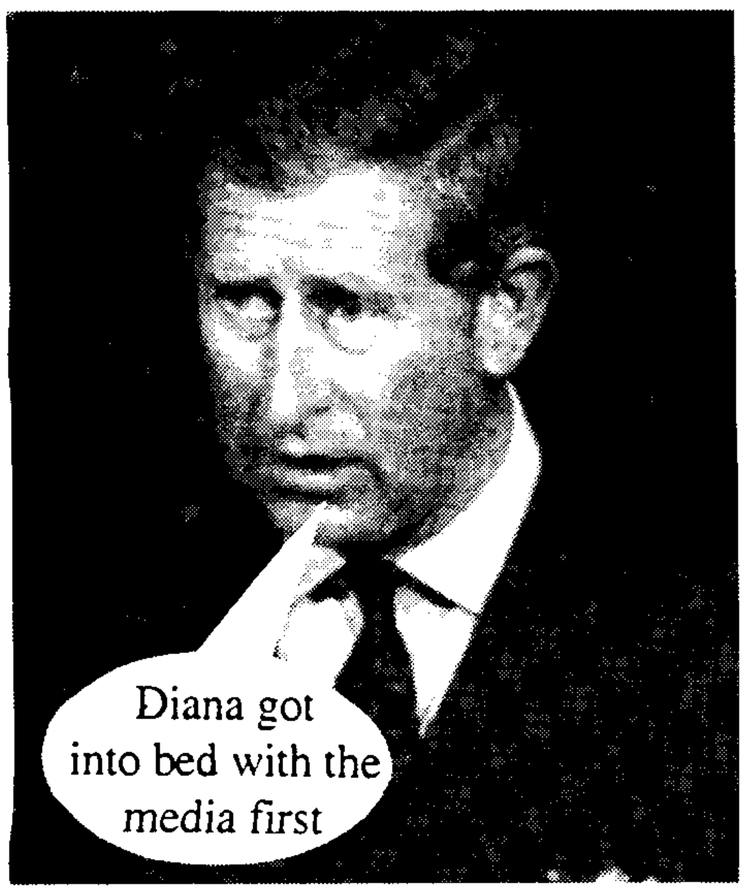
Mr Menem even confirmed the apology story when he later told our rivals: "I'm sorry but I never said I'm sorry."

What could be clearer?

As we say here at the Daily Gnome: "Gotcha!"

E. Strobes
pp Lord Gnome
The Daily Gnome
Wapping Lies

ADULTERY SHOCK



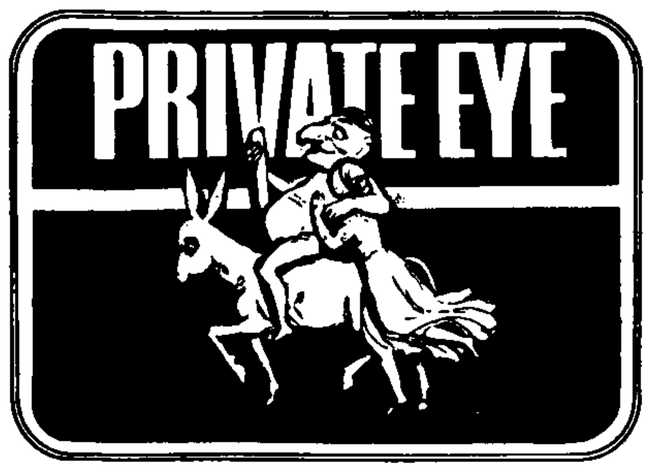
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

£17 per annum. Europe and Eire £25.
Airmail — rest of world £33.
Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Access/Visa.

PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS
Mortimer House, 230-236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
Tel: 0171-228 0588. Fax: 0171-924 3719.
Email: eyesubs@cix.co.uk

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG.Tel:
0171-437 4017. Fax: 0171-437 0705.
Email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

ABC AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS CONSUMER PRESS



COLOUR SECTION

THE love affair between News International and "new" Labour goes much deeper than the transparent sycophancy of the *Sun* towards the government.

The *Eye* can reveal that Murdoch has hired Lawson Lucas Mendelsohn (LLM) — the controversial political consultants implicated in the "cash-for-access" scandal — to lobby the government over its "Fairness at Work" proposals.

Murdoch is furious because the bill contains some mild ideas about protecting employees' union rights. So LLM has been commissioned to covertly nobble the legislation while pretending publicly to support it. "We strongly believe that the News International strategy should be not to oppose the principles of the bill — at least in public — but look for ways of exposing aspects of the bill on the grounds that they are unworkable", states a leaked LLM memo to News International.

Peter Mandelson, the minister responsible and lobbyists' friend, is already capitulating and softening the bill. No doubt Murdoch will be extremely grateful.

LLM also advised that there is "still much misunderstanding" of News International. This includes the company having "too much media power and influence", only pursuing "its own corporate agenda" and being "dominated by Rupert Murdoch". Surely not! No doubt LLM will be able to correct these appalling distortions of reality.

● *More Street of Shame page 6*

LADY Shirley Porter, former leader of Westminster council, is secretly plotting to use lawyers to harass and intimidate newspapers who have been critical of her pivotal role in illegal gerrymandering.

Her designated spin doctor is Tony Kerpel, a former Westminster councillor and Tory special adviser who is now a consultant to PR firm Bell-Pottinger Communications.

Last month Lady Porter called on Kerpel to lobby his boss, Lord Bell, on her behalf. She wants Bell to recommend a law firm who would, according to Kerpel, "put the wind up newspaper editors".

Who will Lord Flasher recommend?

● *More Rotten Boroughs page 13*

NO ONE was more surprised to hear of former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet's arrest in London than his fellow South American mass murderer, Captain Alfredo Astiz — better known as "the Blond Angel" and "Captain Death".

Astiz headed the Argentinian military regime's torture squads, which were responsible for at least 10,000 "disappearances" in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Astiz was captured by British forces in South Georgia in the first week of the Falklands war in 1982. Taken back to Blighty as a POW he was well-treated, despite stabbing a British orderly with a broken bed spring while being held.

He was allowed to return to Argentina at the end of the Falklands conflict, despite extradition papers having been served by the French government who wanted to talk to him about the murder of two French nuns in Buenos Aires in 1977, and by the Swedish government in connection with the disappearance of a Swedish student. Astiz was subsequently tried in his absence by a French court for the murder of the nuns and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1990. He is still a free man in Argentina, however, because of that country's amnesty for its former military thugs.

Margaret Thatcher's government was perfectly happy to let Astiz, murderer and enemy of Britain, go free. No wonder she feels that Pinochet, murderer and "friend" of Britain, got a raw deal.

● *More on Chile page 7*

IN HIS typically robust reaction to the London arrest of General Pinochet, Tory MP Alan Clark ranted that the government "will simply fall over themselves to appease any particular lobby, regardless of legal correctness".

The old philanderer's concern for legal correctness was not noticeable in his reference to Pinochet in his famous *Diaries*. On 30 October 1987, he records, when Pinochet still ruled, Clark was in Chile doing business wth the dictatorship as Margaret Thatcher's trade minister. He attended a dinner party with some opposition politicians, including Patricio Alwyn, who was elected president two years later.

"Frankly," wrote Clark, "I'd have put them all under arrest as they left the building. I might say that to Pinochet if I get to see him on Friday."

● *More HP Sauce page 8*

PHILIP GOULD, the "new" Labour guru whose dreary *The Unfinished Revolution — How the Modernisers saved the Labour Party* has been serialised by the easily impressionable *Times*, has emerged from the shadows of the Grey Lubianka to tell credulous hacks that he is the "sixth most important man in Britain".

This "fact" was duly repeated by *Newsnight* who breathlessly reported that Gould had agreed to give one of his rare — and subsequently, prickly — interviews. But Gould's many claims to fame do not stand up to scrutiny.

1 Gould claims to have played a central, strategic role in Bill Clinton's 1992 election. Fact: When John Prescott's assistant, Jez Sagar, telephoned the Democratic campaign office asking to speak to Gould, no one had heard of him.

2 In his book Gould makes no mention of one of his very few key roles — advising Daniel Ortega's Sandinistas in a Nicaraguan election. Fact: This is because they lost.

3 Gould claims to have invented Labour's red rose. Fact: So does Peter Mandelson.

4 Gould likes to dwell on his key role in masterminding Labour's 1992 election campaign, but only wishes the party had listened more closely to him at the time. Fact: On the penultimate day of the 1992 campaign, Gould boldly announced to Labour's campaigns committee that "There is absolutely no doubt that the Tories cannot win the election tomorrow." Additional fact: The Tories won hands-down. Sadly for the Labour party, the only politician who recognised Gould's abilities was the late John Smith, who on succeeding from the Welsh windbag, booted the lounge lizard Gould from Labour's warm embrace.

● *More New Labour page 9*

"It makes perfect sense – they're both full of tasteless rubbish"

Street Of Shame

THE *Mail*'s serialisation of Penny Junor's book meant a strange moment of unity for all the mid-market tabloid's rivals as they joined to fiercely condemn the attack on their readers' Queen of Hearts.

The *Sun*'s leader column called Junor's book a "vicious outpouring of bile". In case its readers had missed any of these vicious outpourings of bile they could read about them and more royal news on pages 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7. "It upsets William and Harry weeks after their plea for mum's memory to be left in peace. The *Sun* doesn't think that's on".

Over at the *Mirror* the leader addressed the "book's appalling smears". But on pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 the *Mirror* repeated the book's appalling smears — so its readers could make up their own minds, of course. But the *Mirror* warned: "Do not put a single penny in Penny Junor's pocket by buying her disgusting little book". It might have added, please put a penny in Mirror Group Newspapers coffers by buying our disgusting little paper instead, but it didn't. "Remember that she [Junor] is a Grade A hypocrite," the *Mirror* leader sanctimoniously concluded.

Over at the *Express* the royal bonanza was restricted to the first three pages of the newspaper. "Fling with James Hewitt was `not the first' according to Junor book". What's more, "There were bitter rows behind the scenes before Diana was finally laid to rest, claims Penny Junor in her new book", the *Express* excitedly tells readers.

Turn a few pages to the leader column and the moral outrage over "this unpleasant book" suddenly manifests itself. "Those who abetted in the writing of this book should be ashamed". But not the newspapers who make a pretty profit out of repeating the unpleasant allegations in full.

JUST FANCY THAT!

OCTOBER 26 1998: The *Mail's* royal correspondent Richard Kay pronounces in a joint article with Geoffrey Levy that "sensible people of course did not blame him [Charles] for her [Diana's] death".

SEPTEMBER 2 1997 (two days after Diana's death) Richard Kay and Geoffrey Levy fill the front page under the headline "Charles Weeps Tears of Guilt". Shock and nostalgia made Charles cry after Diana's death but also... "Guilt, guilt that manifested itself in what was described yesterday as `a feeling of utter hopelessness that things should have come to this'."

AN expensive-looking ad campaign is underway for the "Masters of Wealth". For £441 a head "the privileged few" are invited to a summit at London's Landmark hotel to learn how to "become very, very rich in the years ahead".

Attendance is vital for "one thing is certain — you can't rely on the hysterical, sensationalist outpourings of the media commentators. Television and newspapers only provide hyped, rehashed opinion — average information to average people."

Apparently "real investment opportunities aren't broadcast to the masses in the broadsheets but are passed, quietly and discreetly, among high powered, well connected, remarkably well informed individuals. And it's no coincidence that they are among the wealthiest people in society."

So who are these high-powered, well connected, remarkably well informed rich people?

Er, the summit is organised by the *Fleet Street Letter* tipsheet, whose editor-in-chief is one William Rees-Mogg — *Times* columnist and famous clairvoyant (see *Eyes passim ad nauseam*). Mystic Mogg is to be the main speaker; while another Master of Wealth — his son Jacob, the failed Tory election candidate, will be giving his thoughts on how to "profit hugely in these times of great upheaval".

FREELANCE media pundit Maggie Brown hit the right note in the London *Evening Standard* at the end of last month when she attacked the "hype" surrounding the launch of digital television.

"All the hype about the public demanding more choice should be set in context," she wrote. Viewing figures for most of the satellite or cable stations are still pathetically low. "From a consumer's point of view there is every reason to hold back, to let the technical hitches take their course."

All this was in healthy contrast to the pro-Sky digital drivel carried in rags like *PR Week* where one gushing scribe wrote: "The simple unvarnished truth is that Sky Digital is a wonderful product. It has not been over-hyped. The EPG is a user-friendly, beautifully designed clever remote control..."

And which digital diva was responsible for such *arslikhan*? Er, step forward *PR Week* columnist Maggie Brown.

ONLY two days after Martin Clarke, foul-mouthed editor of Glasgow's *Daily Record*, went on honeymoon, his tabloid scored a major exclusive. The Chilean footballer and Glasgow Rangers star Sebastian Rozental gave an interview to the paper about the friends and family he had lost to General Pinochet.

"Two of my aunts were taken. They were young women in their early twenties... when I was at school I had friends who, one day, just never reappeared".

The *Record* executives were thrilled with their scoop. Well, they were until they realised that their hack Mairi Mallon had actually phoned an old number for Rozental and got through to a Scottish taxi driver called John Hastie. Hastie realised Mallon's error and quickly put on a ridiculous South American accent. He then painted his fantasy tale of woe as the Chilean footballer brutalised by an evil dictator — very different from the comfortable middle class existence Rozental's Chilean relatives really enjoy.

NEW details have emerged of the smear campaign by Labour spin doctors and the *Mirror* (*"Sex Pest Scandal Rocks Labour Conference"*) against journalist Greg Palast.

Palast was responsible for the "cash-for-access" scoop about Labour lobbyists in the *Observer*, and party apparatchiks who had been rumbled decided to take revenge.

At Labour's conference in Blackpool Palast was at first refused entry. While waiting in the credentials office, he was approached by two *Mirror* hacks who asked him what he had been "doing in a female delegate's room" the previous day.

Palast refused to speak to them and so the hacks physically pinned him to the wall. It was a crude attempt to provoke Palast into assaulting them but he did not retaliate. Fortunately, a fellow *Observer* reporter, Paul Farrelly, witnessed the attack and intervened. Insults were exchanged with the *Mirror* hacks who then followed Palast and Farrelly for at least two blocks before they found a taxi.

The *Mirror* was briefed by Labour's spin machine that Palast had had an extra-marital affair with a party official and was now behaving like a "sex pest". It was, of course, a total fabrication, but Palast's experience is a stark illustration of the tactics used by Labour's thought police against journalistic dissidents.

GOOD to see the tabloids observing their self-imposed ban on harassment and invasion of privacy so very carefully.

An example of the new found restraint was the recent newspaper frenzy over footballer David Beckham and his pregnant girlfriend Posh Spice, aka Victoria Adams. When the pair went on holiday to Marbella they became targets of the notorious *sindicato*, a collection of a dozen or so paparazzi based on the Costa del Sol. Members of the *sindicato* are constantly at war with each other (when they aren't in bed with each other) and will do literally anything for a picture.

The couple's holiday was an attempt at reconciliation after it was revealed that the Man United striker had snogged a Page Three girl while his wife-to-be was on tour with the other Spice Girls. They arrived by private jet at Malaga airport and were whisked off in a limo to the daftly expensive Antonio's Restaurant in the millionaire's marina of Puerto Banus.

A tip off to Jason Fraser, the king of the European paps, meant a photographer from the Spanish agency Korpa was quickly on their case. He pretended to be a snapper for a local paper and asked Beckham and Posh to pose for a photo. They agreed, provided they were left alone afterwards. True to paparazzi form the minute Beckham and Posh left the restaurant they were bombarded by a horde of snappers who chased them back to their hotel.

When the couple finally appeared the next day even more paparazzi were on the case including Big Pictures, mortal rival of Jason Fraser & Co and owned by Darren Lyons, the podgy Aussie who left the *Daily Mail* under a cloud after accusations of double-dealing his pictures.

Awful scenes ensued with Beckham spitting at the pack and a tearful Posh Spice pleading "I'm pregnant, I'm pregnant. Please leave us alone". The photographers, full of their new zest for self-restraint, shouted back "*Hijo de puta*" (Son of a whore), "*Maricon*" (poofter) and "*Guarra!*" (She-pig). In a desperate attempt to be left alone, the pair finally agreed to a further set of pictures of them looking relaxed and happy, walking hand-in-hand along the Marbella Club's private beach. Once again the condition was that they'd be left alone afterwards. But once again the paps took the agreed pictures and then simply carried on. To ensure not a frame was missed, bushes were occupied and stones were thrown to make sure Beckham and Posh looked into the various giant lenses trained in their direction. The targets themselves sat on sun loungers or at the end of a pier and returned the abuse with swearing and screams to be left alone.

Naturally none of this appeared in good old Fleet Street which ran huge pictures demonstrating how happy Beckham and Posh were now they are back together. And, of course, Jason Fraser and Darren Lyons picked up fat cheques for their trouble.

WHY was the mysterious *"Daily Mail* Reporter" who wrote the recent piece on racial harassment of English people living in Scotland not willing to take credit by name for the article?

It was thoroughly researched and featured much anecdotal evidence from the victims of such abuse. Indeed, it bore more than a passing resemblance to an article in the *Sunday Times* the previous weekend on exactly the same subject. Passages from the articles were almost word for word identical, and the *Mail* article was even illustrated with the same picture of racism victim Tony Bolton.

Were the two articles by any chance related, one wonders?

MUCH media attention was given to Bruce "Brute" Anderson's clash with *Guardian* columnist Polly Toynbee, who threw a glass of red wine over the loathsome *Spectator* hack after he asked Trevor Phillips "Why don't you go and work for some white people who can teach you how to do things properly?" and suggested Toynbee had got her job through nepotism.

Eye readers will not have been so surprised by Brute's outburst. Only last year we reported him opposing the Oxford Union motion, "This House would allow gays in the Armed services". Anderson lost and, uncharacteristically, got pissed. Later he put an arm round the (black) president of the union, Sam Gymiah of Sommerville College, and announced: "I normally hate black blokes but you're OK."

HOW JOURNALISM WORKS

THE most famous cliche used by the News of the World is the phrase "I made an excuse and left". This is the story of the News of the World man who didn't leave.

On 23 August the *Screws* ran a story across pages 26 and 27 under the headlines: "The guest house where all rooms come with en-suite pervert. Owner hides in the wardrobe to watch wife bed men for cash."

It is a classic *Screws* tale — a "naturist" bed and breakfast is exposed as a kinky brothel, in which the naked landlady, Sue Firth, serves breakfast in bed to male customers and then stays for "romps", spied on by her husband Bob. The trouble is, like many a classic *NoW* story, most of it is not true. And the true story makes the *Screws* look even seedier than the people it exposes.

The "undercover investigator" quotes Mrs Firth, who runs the Mona Vale naturist guest house near Blandford in Dorset, as offering "a full sex session with me and my husband Bob for £75". The reporter *says* he declined the offer.

Actually it was the reporter who offered the Firths £75 if he could watch them having sex. The Firths, a couple of former "swingers" who advertise their naturist B&B (with massage a speciality) in *Health & Efficiency* magazine, were happy enough to do this and happy to take £75 off the man. This, however, was the extent of the story — but it was not nearly exciting enough for the man from the *Screws*. So he decided to spice it up. He decided that in his story Sue Firth should have sex with the guests rather than her husband and that Bob's role should be merely to hide in a wardrobe. Most importantly, he decided that it should be the Firths who took the initiative.

This is the sort of distortion that tabloid hacks usually get away with — except this time the journalist in question was recorded on a security videotape which caught him, quite literally, with his trousers down.

Although the byline on the story is "Jack Tunstall", no reporter of that name works for the *Screws*. It is a "house" byline used to cover the identity of Neville Thurlbeck, a *Screws* reporter who does not like having his name on sex stories because it upsets his wife. Quite what she will make of the video featuring her husband undressed in the massage room, having already *requested* a sex show and agreed to pay for it, is anyone's guess. Sadly the video stops when the three of them go into the bedroom together but, according to the Firths, Neville insisted on getting dressed again, before watching Bob and Sue make love for 10 minutes. The red-faced Neville filled in the time by caressing Sue's feet. It was only then that he left.

LUVVIES

"Back then, fame is a youthful need for approbation, that extends beyond wanting your teacher to give you an A, or getting picked for the basketball team. I remember thinking at drama school, really seriously: 'If the only reason you are doing this is to garner the attention of others, you should go build ceramic nightlights, do something else.' But then I thought, 'I love doing this. So, then, love doing it. Let that be everything'."

MINNIE DRIVER
Evening Standard

TAKING THE MICHAEL

GEORGE MICHAEL
An article about George Michael's new home published on May 25th 1998, was accompanied by a map of the area and photographs of the mews in which he lives. We are sorry if these identified the whereabouts of his home as this was not our intention.

— the *Sun*, 23 October 1998.

HACKWATCH

A Chile Reception...

THANKS to witnesses who survived and investigations by journalists and human rights agencies, we know a great deal about what happened in Chile when General Pinochet seized power from Allende's left-wing government in 1973. We know 30,000 people "disappeared"; that hundreds of "opponents" were shot in Santiago's football stadium. And we know about the rapes, the torture, the terror.

But the possibility that Pinochet might at last face legal retribution for these crimes is a cause of dismay in some newspapers — even in titles that carried harrowing reports from inside Chile at the height of the killings. All right, so a few people died. But most of them were Marxists and the old mass-monetarist (*Shurely "mass-murderer"? Ed.*) was a "staunch ally" of the west after all. Consequently, distaste for Pinochet is now a touch one-sided.

He's "a hate-figure for the Left" (*Times*, 24 Oct); "a favourite cause of the Left (*Mail*, 21 Oct); and "one of the Left's greatest hate-figures" (*Sun Tel*, 25 Oct). He's also a "bogeyman" for "the European Left" (*Daily Tel*, 21 Oct) and for the "Labour Left" (*Sun*, 20 Oct) and his arrest has "effortlessly won the support of Blair's left" (*Times*, 22 Oct) if absolutely nothing else.

He's also "a hate figure for half the Cabinet" (*Sun*, 22 Oct), as well as the "Labour Left" (*Times*, 22 Oct), not to mention lefty "campus radicals" (*D Tel*, 19 Oct), "Western intellectuals" (*D Tel* 20 Oct), "the student left" (*Times* 21 Oct) and even "foaming student radicals" (Simon Heffer, *Mail* 21 Oct).

While on the subject of bias, we shouldn't forget that the judge who wants to bring Pinochet to justice comes from Spain, "more or less pro-Argentina" during the Falklands War (*D Tel*). Plus he's an "activist judge with close ties to the Spanish Left" (*Times*); a man "who has made his name through political investigations and is acting on a case brought by, among others, the Spanish Communist Party" (*S Tel*).

Add an economic dimension — "Pinochet arrest costs us $180m frigate deal" (*MoS*, 25 Oct) — and it's easy to understand why some newspapers were keen to leave the general to get on with his treatment at a London hospital unmolested.

The *Times* concludes that we should "Send the General Home", pointing out that the extradition to Spain might not even be legal — "The law must be faithfully followed". Er, except, of course, when the law gets in the way of British justice — as when two IRA murderers were refused extradition to the UK by a punctilious Irish court in March 1990 and the *Times* complained: "This may be in accordance with the law but it is not in accordance with the needs of justice or common sense."

Urging the government to "Send Him Home", the *Telegraph* railed against the injustice of extradition. This was a far cry from the opinion it offered earlier this year when home secretary Jack Straw put a stop to the German attempts to extradite Roisin McAliskey. "Consider what ground the government had ceded by deciding, for scandalous reasons, not to extradite Miss McAliskey for trial in Germany. First it has implicitly slighted the German justice system — a strange course of action for a government that wants to get on well with the largest and richest nation in the EU... and after years of trying to persuade the Americans, the Dutch and the German courts to take seriously our attempts to extradite IRA suspects, this government has reversed course" (11 March 1998).

There was sympathy for the general in the *Mail* and there was sympathy too, up to a point, for his victims: "We sympathise with the families of those victims and understand their desire for a day of reckoning. But this is a matter for Spain and Chile. There is no reason for Britain to get involved..." (19 October).

The *Mail*'s reluctance to encourage Jack Straw to let the Spanish authorities test their evidence against Pinochet in court was somewhat at odds with the *Mail*'s disappointment when the same home secretary put a stop to the extradition of Roisin McAliskey — "Devlin's daughter and a whiff of expediency. Whether or not Roisin McAliskey played any part in a terrorist bombing in Germany will now never be known. Certainly the German authorities believed they had a case against her. They would never have applied for extradition otherwise." (10 March).

The consensus of all these papers is that the arrest of Pinochet is nothing more than "a political act". And their defence of him is of course a non-political one.

POLICE 5

COMIC RELIEF got its timing wrong the day it gave a Liverpool theatre group a £42,000 grant to counteract negative media images of scousers. The event was forced off the top spot in the local news... by the gangland killing of two bouncers in a gym by a hitman who escaped on a motorbike.

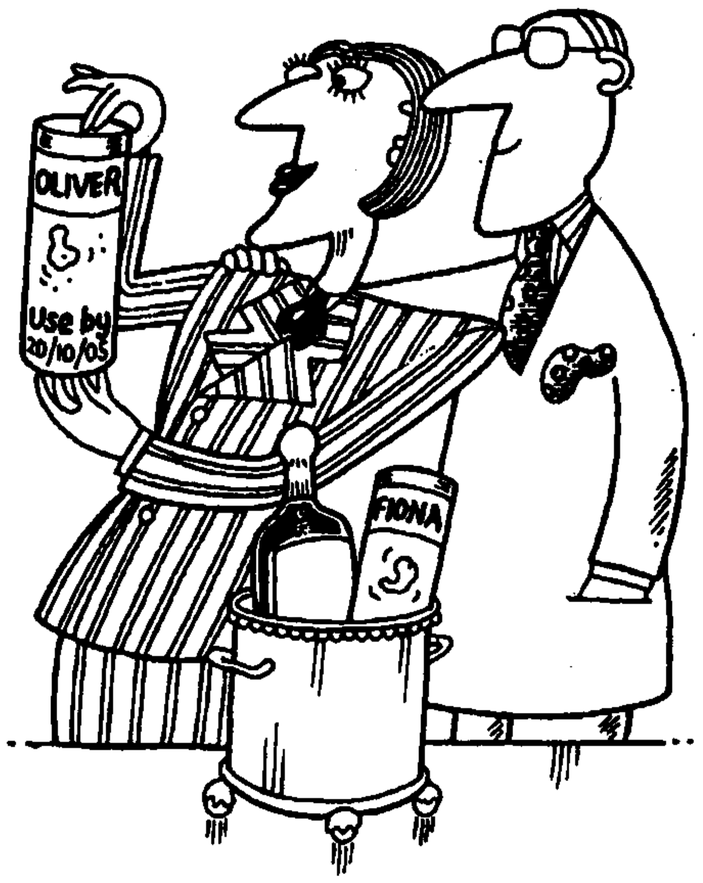
October was a bad month all round for sleaze in Murkeyside, but Inspector Knacker made headlines as often as his "clients". TV "gladiator" Mike Aherne went to jail with his bent copper friend Elmore Davies for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. And in another gangland-related case it was revealed that murdered criminal George Bromley had confidential police documents in his home — including a copy of his own police file, allegedly obtained from a Merseyside detective.

In all eight of the area's boys in blue have been suspended this month in an ongoing investigation into corruption, making events in the TV police drama *Liverpool One* seem tame. Fortunately, then, a new chief constable has just been appointed to deal with the gun-happy gangsters and bent coppers. Unfortunately the man chosen is Norman Bettison, who already has a credibility problem before he takes up the post.

Bettison was previously involved in the South Yorkshire inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster, serving on the liaison unit set up by South Yorkshire police to present evidence to the Taylor inquiry. According to a Commons statement made by Liverpool Garston MP Maria Eagle in May, the unit "orchestrated what can only be described as a black propaganda campaign which aimed to deflect the blame for what happened on to anyone other than themselves..."

If local hacks had known who was on the shortlist this unpopular Hillsborough link would have come out. But the chair of the Merseyside police authority Carol Gustafson refused to divulge candidates' names. Six of the nine members of the MPA panel admitted they didn't know about Bettison's Hillsborough link. They have now been ordered to keep their mouths shut about the affair.

NEW OLD SAYINGS



Marry in haste, parent at leisure

IN THE TEAROOM

PREPARE for the relaunch of John Prescott. The deputy prime minister has had a frustrating year. His super ministry of environment, transport and regions has been working harder than any Whitehall department, regularly coming up with six draft white papers before breakfast. Then what happens? The papers get to Downing Street where they're tossed in the pending tray while David Milliband and his crew go off to listen to Anthony Giddens talking bollocks about the Third Way. Nowt gets done.

Prescott's ambitious wheeze to banish congestion from the roads is stuck in a legislative traffic jam. He's worried that even the tiny little technical bill he needs to force Virgin trains to run on time may get shunted into a siding. The pointy-heads are going cool on English regional policy. Nit-picking questions are being asked about the redesign of local government. The DPM is as mad as hell, and he isn't going to take it any more.

But things are moving his way, at last. Gordon Brown's much vaunted "New Deal" is shaping up to be a total shambles. Businesses sign up for it all right, but the young jobless hardly ever turn up, or if they do they bunk off out the back to roll a spliff. Then they get bored and quit. And the pilot scheme for single mums is going no better. The government is desperate for a few down-to-earth policies guaranteed to work. Step forward Practical Prescott.

Margaret Beckett now has control of the parliamentary timetable and chairs the cabinet committee that decides what goes in the queen's speech. She too thinks there should be less hot air and more concrete achievement. And while "new" Labour's brasher and more arrogant tendency has made the mistake of writing her off as a has-been, Prescott's been working his charm on the old trout. It's amazing what a bit of old-fashioned flattery can do.

'Urquhart'

NEW Labour's longterm hope for proportional representation, courtesy of Roy Jenkins, and subsequent merger with Liberal Democrats, with Roy Jenkins' blessing, have been dealt a massive blow.

Not only are cabinet bigwigs John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Jack Straw lining up against, but so are hitherto staunchly Blairite MPs. The reason? Boundary reorganisation and a likely reduction of seats would see many of them picking up their redundo cheques.

ORDER OF THE BACKBENCH BROWN NOSE

THE new term at Westminster has begun and regiments of Brown Nosers have been falling over themselves to be first to butter up Tony.

First off was Gordon Brown's parliamentary private secretary Don Touhig (Islwyn), eager to prove he shares none of his immediate boss's alleged animosity towards the prime minister.

According to Mr Touhig, the good people of Islwyn have had only one thing on their mind all summer: "May I tell my Right Honourable Friend that the people who sent me to this House warmly welcome the extra £40bn promised for health and education? They see it as an investment in their future. Will he make it clear that cutting spending on schools and hospitals is the Tory way? It is not our way."

Blair beamed with appreciation and was quick to point out it wasn't only Islwynians who stood to benefit. "It is an investment in the country's future."

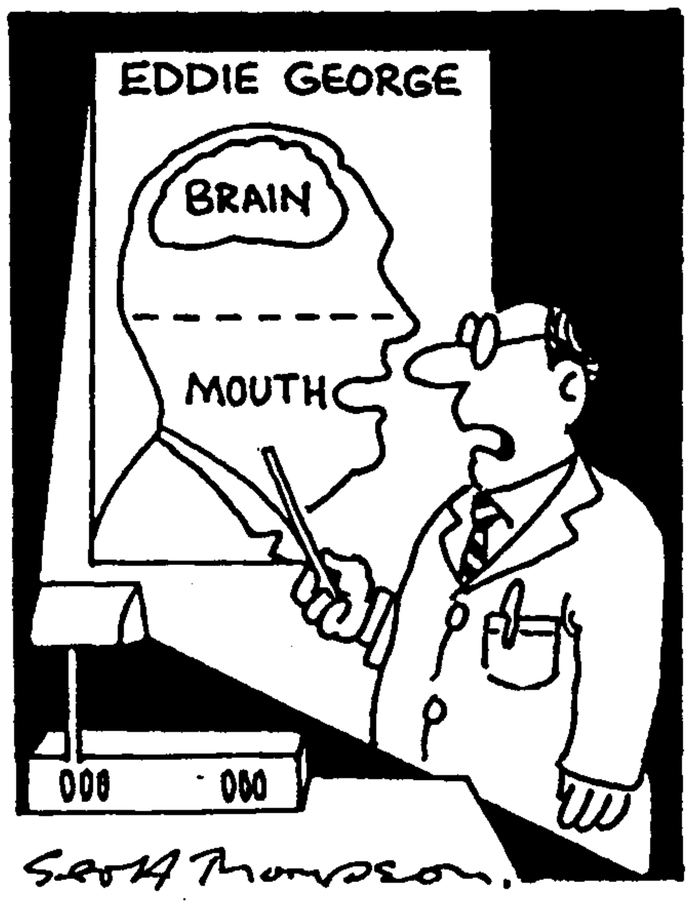
LAST *Eye*'s report on the Philip Morris-sponsored dinner at the Labour party conference noted the discretion of the tobacco company's representative, Martin Liptrott, on the subject of the party guest list. The occasion was private, he explained.

Informed observers will assume that Liptrott did manage to pad out his fag-friendly bash with politicians and perhaps even ministers. After all, he does have the right contacts: until the last election he was press spokesman for the north-west region of the Labour party.

WHEN Kenneth Clarke withdrew from a televised debate on European monetary union (EMU) at the Tory conference, his opponent Bill Cash was so incensed he called the Peterbore column on the *Daily Telegraph* to denounce the former chancellor.

A hack was duly sent to find out what Clarke's excuse was and was loftily told: "I can't do it because I have got to do something else."

That "something else" turned out to be an urgent lunchtime drinking session in the conference bar with Nicholas Soames.



The North/South Divide

WHO is paying for Neil Hamilton's libel action against Mohamed Fayed?

The disgraced former Tory MP for Tatton is pretty broke, and certainly can't afford the fees normally charged by his faithful lawyers, Carter Ruck & Co. Could it be that he has made use of the fund set up by the late Sir James Goldsmith to help respectable citizens sue lefties at the *Guardian*, Granada TV, etc? Hamilton's libel action against the BBC in 1985 was originally backed by this fund. Is he using it again?

TRADE and industry minister Ian McCartney has been trying to persuade all and sundry that the European candidate selection committee — which he chaired — behaved in an impeccable manner, choosing Labour's candidates on merit and in accordance with the party's desire to have more representation of women and ethnic minorities.

Sadly for McCartney, his committee ended up ditching the only sitting black MEP, Mark Hendrick. But when it came to another ethnic minority — the Welsh — McCartney was even more brutal. Confronting the mild mannered former lay preacher and South East Wales MEP David Morris, McCartney demanded to know how Morris' long term association with CND could be reconciled with "Tony's policy on Trident". Morris was duly dropped and replaced by a candidate from Cheshire.

"THE BBC does not use lobbyists to promote or communicate its messages to politicians — we have a small in house public affairs team for that purpose."

So said director of corporate affairs Colin Browne when asked why the BBC appears on the client lists provided to the Association of Professional Political Consultants by three different lobbying companies: Westminster Strategy; Shandwick Public Affairs; and Derek Draper's old company, GPC Market Access.

"However, we do use specialist monitoring services as the most cost-effective way of being kept informed of proceedings in parliament in their many and varied forms," Mr Browne's letter continued.

One might ask what is wrong with the political unit at BBC Millbank, where around 200 BBC staff are employed to research in depth the many and varied events at Westminster. Or, for that matter, what objection managers have to their very own service, BBC Worldwide Monitoring, which they are quite happy to hire out to anyone else in the media for a price.

Since the corporation has also recently taken over the running of the parliamentary channel, which is dedicated to uninterrupted coverage of what goes on in the Palace of Westminster, the decision to pay out licencepayers money to an outside lobbying company to tell management what is going on there seems all the more odd. Exactly how much money, and where the expenditure appears in the BBC's "clear, informative and candid" annual report and accounts, were questions Mr Browne declined to answer.

OILING UP TO NEW LABOUR

THE normally placid Commons committee on international development was the scene of an unlikely clash on 20 October between "new" Labour (backbench variety) and "new" Labour (ministerial variety).

By chance the main witness on the day was Dr Chris Gibson-Smith, managing director of BP. A routine session was galvanised by the *Guardian* revelations that week that BP had engaged in arms dealing and spying in Colombia through its London-based corporate mercenaries, Defence Systems Ltd (DSL).

Two new Labour Blairistas, Tess Kingham (MP for Gloucester) and Oona King (Bethnal Green and Bow) were outraged by the allegations and plied the wretched Gibson-Smith with a series of angry questions about the Colombian scandal. Kingham accused BP of putting profits before principle, and King threatened to impose a lifelong personal boycott on BP, as she had done on Shell over its complicity in the judicial murder of Ken Siro Wiwa in Nigeria.

Such strong statements are unlikely to please the prime minister whose favourite junior minister is Lord Simon, minister of state for trade, former chairman of BP. Blair is determined to stop any more embarrassing questions about BP in Colombia, which might reveal that during Simon's short chairmanship (July 1995 to May 1997) there were no fewer than five Colombian government investigations into BP's involvement in environmental damage and human rights abuses.

In the very month Simon started as chairman, a Colombian government report revealed that BP was passing "intelligence" about local protesters to a military brigade which was "protecting" BP oil fields by the time-honoured method of victimising and torturing protesters. BP denied everything, so in January 1997 the Colombian attorney-general opened his own investigation.

Soon afterwards he accepted a demand from Amnesty International to widen his terms of reference to include claims by a BP employee that a BP security official had shown her a "hit list" of troublemakers, including Amnesty International and Greenpeace. Meanwhile the Colombian ombudsman was investigating the £7.7m agreement between BP and the Colombian armed forces. He concluded that the agreement was unconstitutional and had turned the country's armed forces into a private army.

PS: No company has more members on government "task forces" than BP. Bryan Sanderson, managing director of BP International, sits on the advisory group which advises the president of the board of trade (not to mention his junior minister, Lord Simon) on the forthcoming white paper on competitiveness. BP's explorations managing director Rodney Chase sits on the advisory committee on business and the environment and also has a place on the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development. David Watson, BP's group treasurer, sits on the government working party on "increasing business investment".

PPS: The International Petroleum Exchange has just fined BP £125,000 for "false trading, manipulating prices and knowingly providing false information". This was the highest fine ever imposed because BP traders, when accused, refused to cooperate.

MEALE TICKET

ALAN MEALE, the environment minister accused of performing "political favours" for wealthy Greek Cypriot businessman Tony Kleanthous, clearly knows a great deal about Cypriot affairs.

He was elected (by 56 votes) as the MP for Mansfield in 1987. Apart from one visit to the US, paid for by the state department, he doesn't declare any overseas visits until 1992. Then the trips to Cyprus began. He declared them as follows:

9-13 October 1992, to Republic of Cyprus with the British Cyprus Group, paid for by the Morphou District Association.

15-17 October, 1993, to Republic of Cyprus with the British Cyprus Group, paid for by the Morphou District Association.

September, 1995. To Cyprus at the invitation of the Federation of British Greek Cypriots, by whom my travel and hotel costs were paid.

14-18 April 1995, to Cyprus with my wife as guests of Labour's sister socialist party EDEK who met the costs of travel and accommodation.

October 1994 and October 1995, to the Republic of Cyprus to speak at the annual Morphou rally, at the invitation and expense of the Greek Cypriot Federation.

13-14 November 1995, to Cyprus to speak to a rally in Nicosia organised by the Labithos and Karavas Association. Travel and accommodation costs paid by the Federation of Greek Cypriots in Great Britain.

25 May-1 June 1996, to Cyprus with my wife to observe their general election. Costs of travel and accommodation met by the Greek Cypriot Brotherhood of Great Britain.

10-14 October 1996, to Cyprus with my wife as guests of the Morphou Association for their rally. Travel and costs were paid by the Federation of Greek Cypriots in Great Britain.

26 May to 1 June 1997, to Cyprus to meet political leaders, paid by the Federation of Greek Cypriots in Great Britain.

23-26 August 1997, to Cyprus, at the invitation of the World Federation of Greek Cypriots, who paid my travel and hotel costs. 8-14 October 1997, to Cyprus as a guest of the Morphou Association who paid my travel and hotel costs.

"Beware of Greek Cypriots bearing gifts"

THE search is on at Westminster for a successor to Margaret Hodge to chair the education sub-committee.

Favourite for the job is Anne Campbell, Labour MP for Cambridge and parliamentary private secretary to energy minister John Battle. She has impeccable Blairite credentials and an impressive track record when it comes to education.

Campbell's constituency has the largest student population of any in the UK. Before the last election it was realised that this might be the key to increasing her majority of 580. Thus her office distributed a leaflet to all city students. "NO Tuition Fees Here", it said above a picture of Ms Campbell.

In May last year her majority duly shot up to 14,000. Yet six months later Campbell was giving a barnstormer of a speech *in favour* of tuition fees at the Labour party conference. When challenged by the Cambridge student paper *Varsity*, she tried to rewrite history claiming the leaflet "wasn't about tuition fees". What's more, she added: "I don't think it's misleading."

NOOKS and CORNERS

***WHAT* a surprise that, of six carefully selected architects, the Richard Rogers Partnership has been chosen to build the proposed national assembly for Wales! Proof, yet again, of the legendary incorruptibility of the architectural competition system in Britain and its ability to give opportunities to outsiders and new young talent.**

It was gracious, really, for My Lord Rogers of Riverside to allow his name to go forward in the first place for he is already frightfully busy — what with the millennium dome and terminal five at Heathrow, let alone his public spirited work in replanning London for us all, making it like a Mediterranean resort full of cafes and open spaces in which real people can interact socially.

Naturally a selection committee chaired by the former Labour prime minister Lord Callaghan would be completely fair and objective. I suppose it is possible Jim might have encountered Richard in the Lords, but he obviously would not be influenced by the fact that the famous bronzed 'n' relaxed *bon viveur* and architect is so close to Tony and the "new" Labour government.

And what a sensible design the Richard Rogers Partnership has come up with — "simple, straightforward, elegant and economic," as Callaghan succinctly observes. Instead of the collection of "upturned boats" by Enric Miralles poor Edinburgh is going to get for the Scottish assembly, Cardiff Bay will be graced by lots of glass and a big floating flat roof penetrated by a pair of cooling towers (an idea inspired, perhaps, by the ventilation shaft that rises through the millennium dome).

A pity, really, that the people of Wales — like the people of Scotland — will have absolutely no say in the choice of public building which will symbolise their aspirant democracy. As I pointed out with the cabal which chose the design for the Scottish assembly, never before in the history of the world has a parliament building been designed and built before the parliament it is to house is elected and can decide what sort of building it might like.

Where Scotland led, Wales has followed. But at least My Lord Callaghan kept it in the family — after all, Donald Dewar's gang chose a fashionable Catalan architect. The obvious home for the Welsh assembly is, of course, the old Cardiff City Hall, a magnificent Edwardian baroque building, just as the popular favourite for the Scottish assembly is the old High School on Calton Hill. But, as we know, "new" Labour knows best — about the new architecture that is good for us as about everything else.

A couple of weeks ago a delegation of architects headed by Rogers lobbied the planning minister, Richard Caborn, to relax planning restrictions in conservation areas. Naturally they used the tired old argument that too much is being conserved and that planning restrictions prevent the creation of Good Modern Architecture; that is, to stop smart architects designing what they want, where they want, when the result is bound to be a masterpiece.

With Richard, of course, it still rankles that his proposal to improve Lloyd's Register of Shipping with a louvred glass entrance pavilion was rejected by the City of London's planning committee. The fact is that High Tech architects cannot be trusted with any historic building or difficult historic site, but that will cut no ice with the posturing idealogues of "new" Labour and Cool Britannia.

Now there is a rumour that English Heritage is to be abolished because it is too "backward looking". Never mind that the whole purpose of a body concerned with listed buildings is to look backwards; this criticism reflects the hatred certain modern architects have for any planning or historic building legislation.

HERE is why we need planning controls. Cricket House in Somerset was rebuilt by the great Sir John Soane in 1805 and is listed at grade II. It stands in a garden and park, which, although it contains a zoo and was once soiled by being used for Noel Edmonds's "Mr Blobbyland", is still magnificent and on the English Heritage register at II*. Now Warner Holidays, a division of the Rank Group, wants to build a 200-bedroom hotel complex nextdoor.

This involves the demolition of several historic buildings, including a picturesque gardener's cottage in the walled garden, and the erection of two new blocks larger than the original house. But South Somerset district council has approved this disastrous scheme — ignoring (and suppressing) the objections of the Georgian Group, the Garden History Society, SAVE Britain's Heritage, etc, which have asked the secretary of state to call the case in for public inquiry.

As the Garden History Society points out, the government circular PPG15 insists that "local planning authorities should protect registered parks and gardens in preparing developing plans and in determining planning applications". Incidentally, I note that Richard Rogers' architects delegation has called for the inhibiting PPG15 to be reviewed "at the earliest opportunity". But then perhaps everything would be all right if the new Cricket Hotel were to be designed instead by the Richard Rogers Partnership, wouldn't it?

'Piloti'

MILLENNIUM BUGGERS

PETER MANDELSON has recruited his chum Lord Marshall, chairman of British Airways, to help the government to eradicate the so-called millennium bug.

The fear is that many computer programs will not recognise the year 2000 and will simply go haywire at midnight on 31 December next year. Mandy, the trade secretary, has ordered a huge advertising drive to pressure businesses into updating their systems and to reassure customers that all will be well.

As chairman of BA, Marshall has been to the fore promoting so-called millennium compliance. Surprisingly, therefore, anyone scouring the (very) small print of the insurance details in next year's BA holiday brochures will discover the following: "We will not cover claims arising from equipment or any computer program failing to recognise, interpret or process any date changes for example the year 2000 [*sic*]."

The warning is less than prominent. But it means that if you fly on a fabulous BA holiday next year and the microchip in the hotel lift fails, trapping you inside, tough. Nor will you be covered, presumably, if you are sitting on board a BA 747 when the air traffic control computer goes ga ga and directs a Virgin jet into the same position as you.

Obviously this is purely hypothetical. And the fact that the exclusion clause has been hastily slipped into BA's brochures in no way suggests any lack of confidence that problems will be solved.

LORDS FOR HIRE

CONTINUING our series on working peers, here's a round-up of those paid to advise the waste, nuclear and chemical industries.

Life Peers

Lord Baker of Dorking: Adviser to ICL plc; director of Millennium Chemicals Inc.
Lord Barnett: Chairman of Independent Services Waste Management Ltd.
Baron Cavendish of Furness: Director of United Kingdom Nirex Ltd.
Lord Gray of Contin: Consultant to Scottish Nuclear Ltd (East Kilbride).
Lord Simpson of Dunkeld: Director of ICI plc.

Hereditary

Earl of Arran: Parliamentary adviser to Institute of Waste Management.
Lord Glenarthur: Director of Millennium Chemicals Inc.
Lord Lucas of Chilworth: Consultant to Environmental Services Association.
Marquess of Reading: Consultant to UK Waste Management Ltd.
Viscount Ullswater: Member of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd; Environment Council.

'Backbiter'

Blairobics
★ AEROBICS ★
Advertisement

EYE TV

The BBC In Crisis

IN the five days between Sunday 18 October and Thursday 22nd, the BBC was revealed to have surrendered the following things: the rights to cover Test match cricket, three hours of broadcasting to a strike and 500,000 Radio 4 listeners in the last three months. To have lost one of these might have been accounted a misfortune; but to have lost all three... Lady Bracknell would have been in a coma.

The corporation's loss of international cricket follows the departure of the FA cup from the BBC but is potentially more serious because more of the political and media establishment follow the long-trousered game than the short-trousered one.

The BBC has at least two reasons to feel aggrieved at losing out to Channel 4. The first is that Channel 4's justification for claiming this hoary old sport — that cricket is a multi-ethnic game and therefore in line with C4's cultural remit — is clever but disingenuous. The truth is that this is primarily an attempt to deliver well-heeled income groups to advertisers which confirms the channel's drift towards the mainstream.

It is also not at all clear how Channel 4 can guarantee anything close to the ball-by-ball coverage which attracts cricket nuts. The station has already admitted that it will duck out on Saturday afternoons for racing coverage. But, as any cricket bore could tell you, some of the most exciting moments in the game's history have happened late in the evening after delays for rain. Is Wacko Jacko really going to delay or postpone Channel 4 news or his precious American sitcoms to screen Gough and Cork bowling in the fading evening light? Even the BBC, with two mainstream channels available, struggled to provide inclusivity.

The BBC's lament against the cricket authorities for selling out is also highly suspect. The sports boys at the Beeb talk about the loyalty the corporation has shown towards cricket. Yet the truth is that the last three controllers of BBC2 (Botney, Wacko, Tommo) have all been sports-phobes who tolerated cricket because it offered unusually high ratings in mornings and afternoons. If the ratings for cricket had suddenly collapsed, we would have heard no speeches from the BBC about how loyal cricket had always been to the channel.

Nothing succeeds like failure

The BBC's second crisis of the week demonstrated its uncanny ability to encourage bad publicity — the real story behind the strike which took news programmes off air. It is well known that workers striking for more pay get no public sympathy (especially when it's the public's money). But, on this occasion, BBC staff were handed the much more popular casus belli that their own pay rise was barely half of that taken by senior management. You might think that an organisation which runs quite so many news programmes might have realised that the "fat cat" scenario is the one currently to avoid. But the BBC bosses ensnared themselves.

The third BBC crisis — caused by the release of figures showing a sharp fall in audiences for the relaunched Radio 4 — is another catastrophe manufactured by the BBC itself. Other troubled BBC radio networks — Radio 3, Radio 1 — have been undermined by increased competition from commercial stations following the deregulation of radio. Radio 4, though, is the only one to have been weakened by an internal BBC rival.

Radio 4 controllers traditionally had the comfort of knowing there was nowhere for disgruntled listeners to go. A speech-based service heavy on documentaries was so expensive to produce that only the phone-in parts of the programming were likely to be targeted by commercial rivals, beginning with Talk Radio. No matter how restive, the Radio 4 audience remained captive.

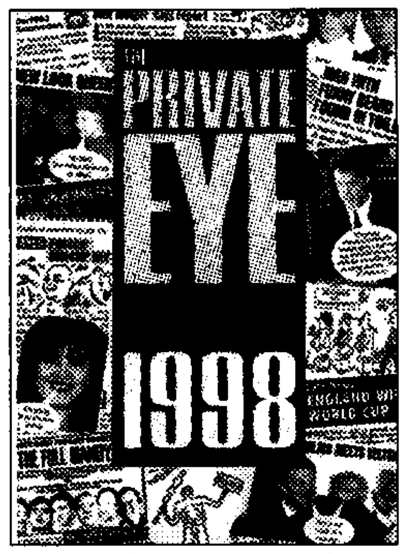
Until, with the perfect aim at its own feet which has always characterised its management, the BBC came up with its own rival to Radio 4 by creating Radio 5, a news service which transmuted into the news and sport network Radio 5 Live. Faster, younger, more irreverent than 4 — and with the sports events most attractive to male listeners in their cars — 5 Live has been creaming off precisely the younger listeners who would normally have been expected to replenish the Radio 4 audience as older wireless-owners died off.

This is the real sadness of Radio 4: it is the first BBC station to go down to friendly fire. And a major cause of the decline — appetising sports rights on another station — brings us round to where we started with the BBC and cricket. For years a favourite moan of the licence payer has been that there is too much sport on television. But these days many of the BBC's troubles result from the fact that there isn't enough.

'Square Eyes'

JUST PUBLISHED!

3 NEW PRIVATE EYE BOOKS



New Labour, new jokes – NEW PRIVATE EYE ANNUAL. H/B £7.99

Classic commentors' cockups. Number 9 in the best-selling series. Illustrated by Larry. £3.99

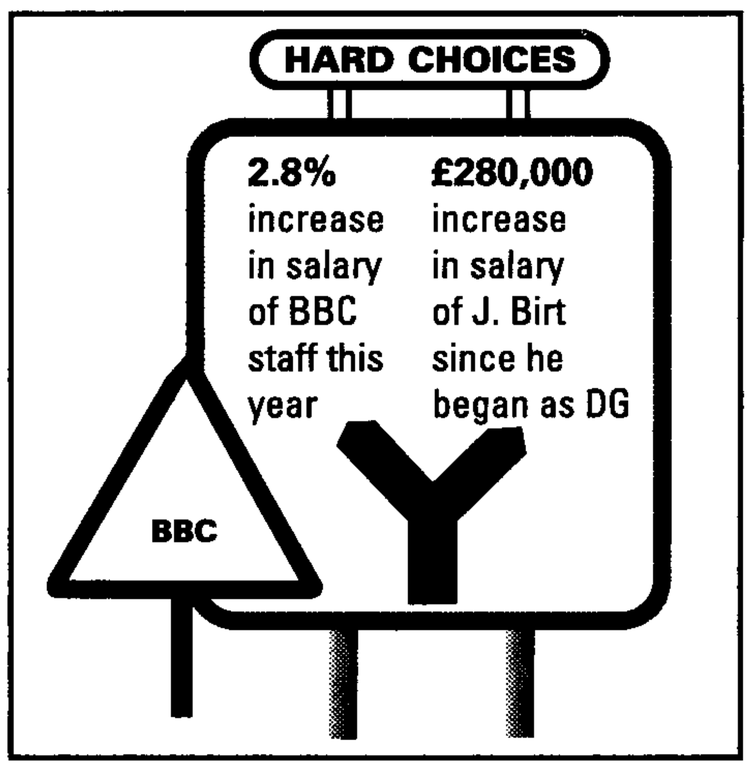
Now in collected form. The thoughts, sermons and notes from the new vicar of St Albion – known to us all simply as Tony! £4.99

On sale now at W. H. Smugs and most other bookshops

DIANABALLS

"Princess Diana License — Exact replica of Diana's official driver's license; it has Diana's height, weight, date of birth and hair color, plus palace address w/color photo. This valuable collector's item can be yours for only $9.95 + $1.00 S&H."

— Advertisment in *Village Voice*, New York.



Plugged In

READERS of the *Times* weren't simply told about the film *Titanic* being released on video. They were provided with an extremely useful supplement to remind them of the momentous occasion.

Of course the paper's enthusiasm for the disaster pic has nothing to do with the fact that its proprietor, News International, also owns 20th Century Fox, producer of... *Titanic*.

An occasional column devoted to cross-media plugs masquerading as news.

MEDIA NEWS

A SPECIAL hour-long edition of *Hard News* has been commissioned by Channel Four to "investigate" the *Guardian*'s story earlier this year that Carlton Television faked an award-winning story about importing drugs to Britain from Colombia.

The *Hard News* programme does not seem to be going too well. Two producers, at least one of whom was convinced that the *Guardian* got the story right and there was nothing to investigate, have jumped ship.

The question worrying independent companies who are continually having excellent media ideas turned down by Channel Four is why this extravaganza was commissioned. Some disgruntled tellybores have even suggested that the whole enterprise is inspired by a group of old friends discomforted by the *Grauniad* story.

Carlton's head of legal affairs Don Christopher, who approved the controversial drugs programme, is a former Channel Four lawyer and close associate of Channel Four head of news and current affairs David Lloyd, not to mention Bernard Clark, whose company has won the contract for the *Hard News* programme.

Meanwhile the "independent inquiry" set up by Carlton into its faked programme limps on. Six months ago Carlton promised a determination within a month. The nature of the "independent inquiry" contrasts oddly with the investigation set up by Thames Television into *Death on the Rock*, the 1989 programme on the shooting of three unarmed IRA members in Gibraltar. That inquiry, which exonerated the programme, was conducted by a former Tory minister Lord Windlesham and a barrister, Richard Rampton QC. They interviewed the witnesses they chose, and assessed the evidence which they collected. Much stress was laid by Thames on the independent nature of the investigation. Sir Ian Trethowan, then Thames chairman, said that if anyone from Thames had played any part in the inquiry, the report "would not have carried sufficient credibility".

The Carlton inquiry also has two independent assessors, Michael Beloff QC and a former BBC executive John Wilson. The difference is that the collecting of evidence and interviewing of witnesses has been conducted exclusively by Clive Jones, chief executive of, er, Carlton Television, and by Nigel Rawding, a partner at Freshfields, corporate lawyers to, er, Carlton Television.

TV's most overused presenter David Aaronovitch has landed another plum job: fronting Channel 4's *The Black Art of the Political Lunch*.

This involves him wining and dining such political luminaries as Roy Hattersley to discover the Machiavellian intrigues which go on over a glass of good claret.

The programme's producers were bemused by Aaronovitch's insistence that he do a piece-to-camera from his bath before he went to meet one lunch guest, the overseas development minister Clare Short. They duly filmed the presenter in a bath brimming with soap suds wearing only his underpants to protect his modesty in front of the film crew.

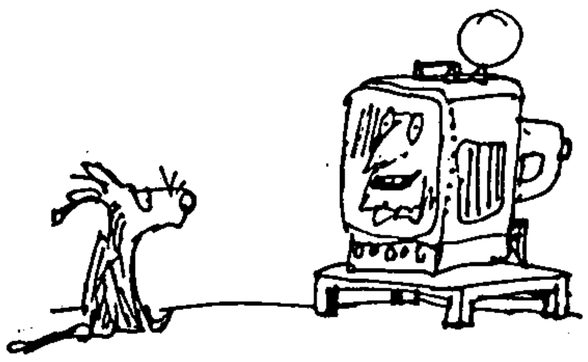
After one take he insisted that this didn't feel right. So he stood up and took his underpants off, revealing his full splendour to the crew. Edited highlights of Aaronovitch's striptease are now doing the rounds of amused television workers.

MARTIN BASHIR's departure from the BBC has been described as another blow to BBC morale in the wake of losing Test cricket to Channel 4 and the Oscars ceremony to Sky.

In fact Bashir's defection to ITV is the first bit of good news the Beeb has had in ages. He has done little in recent months except a weak interview with convicted child killer Louise Woodward. He was still living off the glory of his "scoop" interview with Princess Diana even though the *Mail on Sunday* had revealed that Bashir had available falsified bank statements as a means to show the princess that her security guards were bribed to leak information about her. These statements were intended to persuade the princess to agree to an interview.

In October 1993 the *Eye* wrote about another pisspoor Bashir contribution to *Panorama*, an investigation into the finances of Terry Venables. That concluded with the BBC shelling out an enormous sum in damages to restaurateur Gino Santin. Bashir had accused Santin of receiving money from Venables for upping the price of Paul Gascoigne when he was sold by Tottenham Hotspur to Lazio.

Now ITV can look forward to more Bashir triumphs: next on his list is an interview with the racist youths accused of murdering teenager Stephen Lawrence.



CHANNEL ONE and L!VE TV, the local news cable TV operations run by the *Mail* and the *Mirror* respectively, have, or rather *had*, a lot in common (apart from losing loads of money, that is).

The *Mirror*'s pisspoor L!VE has been forced to close operations in Newcastle and Liverpool with the loss of nearly 60 jobs. On 25 September, Channel One went off the air completely, with a similar number of job losses.

But are the bosses of the *Mirror* and Associated Newspapers hard-hearted at the thought of so many bright young things' career ambitions ending in ruins? Far from it!

Mirrortel boss Mark Cullen has softened the blow for the 25 youngsters he fired without notice in Newcastle by telling them to "go and have a drink" and putting £100 behind the bar at the nearest pub — almost, in fact, enough for *two* drinks each! Meanwhile Channel One is holding a reunion for fired staff at a Fitzrovia bar on 30 November. Associated has generously hired a room, a disco and "some nibbles". All the unemployed staff have to do to gain admission to their own wake is fork out £10!

You no longer work for a just newspaper! We now all work for a media company.

Leicester Mercury Newsletter

MEANWHILE, whatever happened to the bid by DJ Chris Evans and the *Daily Mail* and General Trust for a local radio franchise, an unlikely joint venture first revealed in the *Eye*?

A few days after the *Eye* piece, the Ginger Whinger was given a full page in the *Mail* (a) to explain that his father read the paper and so it meant a lot to him and (b) to promise that he wasn't a cocaine addict (a suggestion that had never made its way into print).

Since then, alas, *Mail* supremo Sir David English has died, and with him the group's enthusiasm for broadcasting ventures. More importantly, the Radio Authority rejected the Evans-*Mail* application. Which may explain the rag's renewed campaign against Evans, "The Mad Mullah of Pop" who is refusing to play Cliff Richard records on Virgin.

SKOBNK

Which living person do you most admire?
Sir David Frost — a great broadcaster for more than 30 years.

How would you like to be remembered?
Like David Frost — forever.

RICHARD WHITELEY
(presenter of *Countdown*)
Guardian

BOYLE'S LAW

"RADIO Four will succeed because it will be endlessly entertaining and interesting," said controller James Boyle when his "listener-led" schedule was revealed in March.

His "unashamedly Reithian" but "not po-faced" line-up (cost: £79m) won the support of Matthew Bannister, the director of radio.

Despite the hype, £2m worth of market research and a lightbulb logo (symbol of en*light*enment and illumination, geddit?), only months later and 500,000 listeners have fled to other channels. Year on year Boyle's lost 600,000 listeners — Radio Four's worst listening figures ever.

Programme producers weren't surprised when they first read the disastrous figures in press leaks. What surprised them was Boyle's apparent lack of concern. "Radio Four lost 2m listening hours a week following the introduction of its new schedule," revealed the *Daily Telegraph* in August before quoting Boyle: "I'm delighted the new schedule has got off to such a good start."

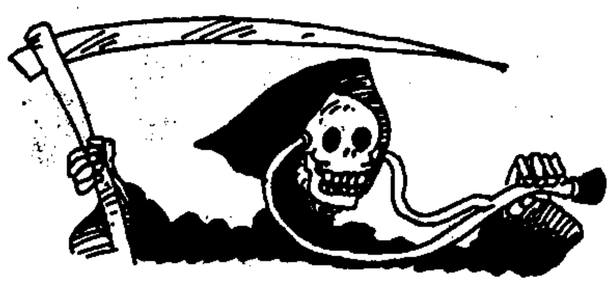
A month later Boyle was still in denial: "Boyle today urged his presenters and staff to ignore audience figures based on 'dodgy arithmetic'," said the *Standard*. It was only this month he finally admitted the figures are "very disappointing."

So who is to blame? Well, there's the listeners ("research shows that listeners' views were riddled with inconsistencies", Boyle said last Friday); then there are the boring politicians and spindoctors who have made topical programmes dull — plus, of course, there was the world cup, increased sun-spot activity and El Nino. Yes: Boyle blames everyone but himself and "sloppy" programme-making which is a direct result of his new schedule.

Now producers have to suspend normal production work twice a year to concentrate on time-consuming "offers rounds" in which reams of programme ideas are researched, collected and presented to commissioning editors. They're up against independent producers and other departments, so competition is fierce — no offers, no work — and all other effort stops. Standards inevitably suffer.

Back in May Boyle promised that "If I get it wrong, I'll be out." But some at White City fear that after Bannister's elevation as director of production, there's space on the slippery pole to promote Boyle out of his tight corner.

Robert the Bruce gets the wrong end of the stick



DOING THE ROUNDS

M.D.'s exposure of the trend for NHS trusts to appoint cheaper, less qualified "associate specialists" rather than new consultants (*Eye* 959) has rung bells with a concerned junior obstetrician who, for obvious reasons, wishes to remain nameless.

"The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists recommends that whenever the appointment of an associate specialist or similar grade is being proposed by a trust, the existing consultants should consider whether a better way of meeting clinical needs and safeguarding standards would be to appoint a consultant instead," he writes.

"The fact that this isn't happening reflects the desire of hospital managers to save money and existing consultants not to share their private practice or scarce NHS resources (secretaries, offices, etc). In obstetrics, the situation is compounded by the fact that the planned consultant expansion of 5 percent a year projected by the department of health has tailed off to 2 percent per year and falling. Unfortunately, the recruitment of junior doctors to the specialty was planned to meet the 5 percent rise and by 2001 there will be 200 fully qualified, UK trained and accredited specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology who can't find a consultant post. Meanwhile, concerns about safety and the lack of experience of obstetricians in operating theatres and labour wards persists."

The potential dangers of this lack of experience was recently highlighted by David Wrede, a senior registrar in obstetrics who is now working in Australia because he couldn't get a consultant post here. "In the current (UK) system," he said, "the first time you see an obstetric emergency like shoulder dystocia (when the baby's shoulders get stuck) is at night as a green registrar with the consultant at home and unable to assist. If you are lucky, all goes well and you go off duty shaken enough to read everything you can about shoulder dystocia for the next time. If not, the experience haunts you both personally andat the next audit meeting, where you are not usually severely criticised for acting where you had no proven competency.

"After five years as a specialist registrar, you may have seen enough cases to feel comfortable managing the condition and then get a consultant post. The irony is that you then do your on-call at home and may never be directly involved in a case again. For the highest quality of care and training in acute specialties, fully trained specialists will have to be resident on-call."

Mr Wrede's forthright views may not have helped him get a consultant post but he is adamant about the need for a consultant led service, despite professional resistance "One consultant leader was heard to say 'Consultants resident on call? Over my dead body!' Yet if doctors profess to uphold the highest standards of acute care, whose dead bodies are we talking about?"

If health secretary Frank Dobson is genuine in his desire for a quality service, he has to fund sufficient consultant expansion in all specialties to allow them to lead the service and supervise junior doctors around the clock. The plan to recruit more medical students is laudable, but they won't be consultants for 20 years — and then only if there are sufficient posts created for them to go to. Some will doubtless help the manpower crisis in general practice, but without consultant expansion the benefits for hospitals will be negligible.

Viagra prompts stiff fines in illegal medicine dealings

Trinidad Express

●AS the Bristol heart inquiry gets underway, a consultant cardiologist from Barts has spoken to M.D. about the effects the scandal is already having on the service.

"Everyone agrees about the need for proper, open audit that allows us to fairly compare one team with another, but the cardiothoracic surgeons are especially worried about what will happen if they have a cluster of deaths in an otherwise satisfactory (or excellent) series of operations. If an operation has, say, a predicted 4 percent death rate, then these four deaths could — quite by chance — occur together in-between 96 successes. The surgeon would still be very competent but if the managers decide to suspend any doctor with, say, three deaths in a row or launch a heavy handed inquiry, then the surgeons will simply refuse to do the high risk operations on sick patients with high mortality rates...

"As a cardiologist, the consequence is likely to be that the high risk patients who the surgeons will no longer take on will come to me demanding an angioplasty or a stent to sort out their heart disease and then I'll have to decide whether I want to take the risk. It may well end up that the sickest patients may have great difficulty getting any sort of intervention."

M.D.

Down on the Fish Farm

SCOTLAND's self-regulated fish farms are still reeling from the impact of the killer disease infectious salmon anaemia (ISA), almost certainly brought to Scotland by diseased stock from Norway.

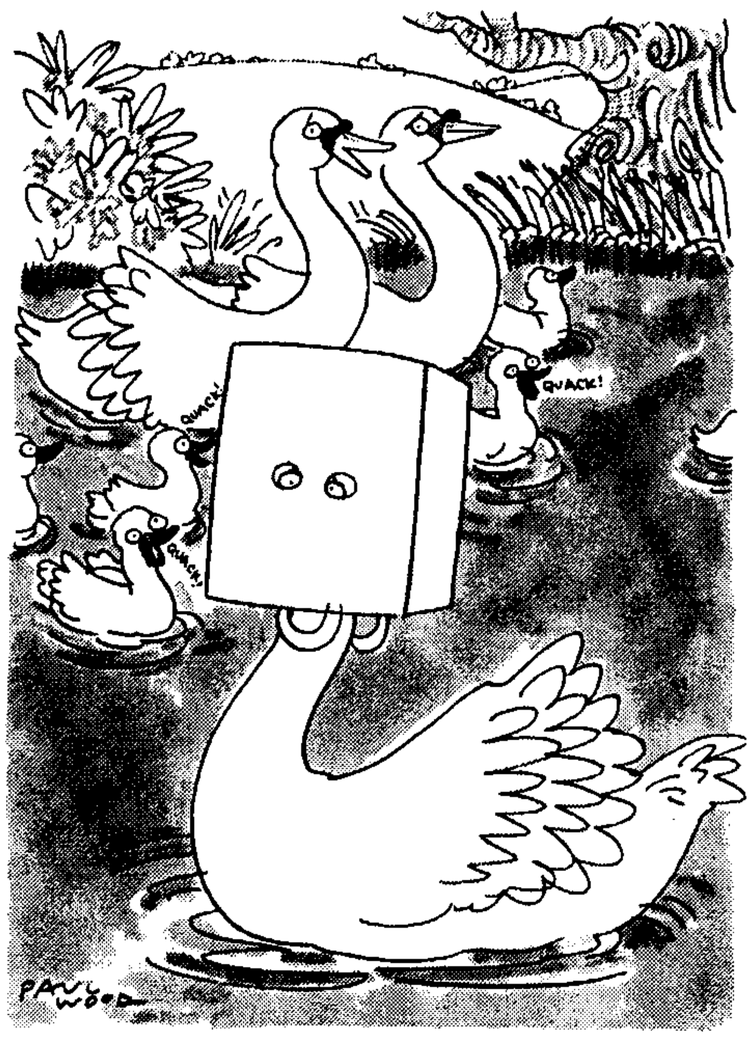
Inspector McKnacker is busy investigating farmers who allegedly kept mum about the disease in their cages and reports have been sent to the procurator fiscal in Aberdeen.

The Scottish office's containment strategy, meanwhile, has failed. Despite movement restriction orders on fish from farms where the disease is suspected, ISA has mysteriously arrived in Shetland, approximately 200 miles from the source of the original outbreak.

Officials have been quick to leap to the defence of the farmers, assuring the public there is no danger to human health in eating salmon from farms where the disease has been identified, provided the fish show no signs of ISA prior to processing. Not good enough, say four supermarket groups, Asda, Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco, who will not buy salmon from farms associated with ISA.

To add to the discomfort of the SO it has now been suggested that legitimate concerns for human safety do exist and that the SO has known this for a month: An independent scientific committee recommended to the SO in September that fish farm workers should have medical examinations "to show whether the virus (ISA) was able to affect those with exposure to it".

'Old Trout'



"He never got over his traumatic childhood"

SIGNAL FAILURES

Focus on the Stagecoach-Virgin monster

AS a service to readers stuck on late-running Virgin trains, the *Eye* has obtained full details of the "extensive package" of customer benefits which are a condition of Stagecoach (annual turnover: £1.3bn) being allowed to buy 49 percent of Virgin trains shares for £158m. Those benefits are:

1 Some combined train and bus facilities, using buses run by, er, Stagecoach;

2 Minor improvements to passenger's charter refunds;

3 Sixteen new carriages for Virgin or Stagecoach franchises and £1m to be invested at stations by 2003;

4 Er...

5 That's it.

Paltry commitments hyped up as "extensive" are par for the course from the office of passenger rail franchising (Opraf), but this time the department of the environment, transport and the regions (DETR) added to the blather, issuing a press release in which transport supremo John Prescott congratulated Opraf for securing a better deal for rail passengers. The government recently said it wants franchisees to make bigger commitments to pleasing their passengers — yet Opraf was lauded for insisting on even *less* from Stagecoach and Virgin than from Great Western (*Eyes passim*).

Opraf emphasised the integrated-transport element of the deal, but this simply ties up Virgin trains and Stagecoach buses for the companies' commercial self-interest. Opraf also boasted the deal was a step towards a coordinated network. True, parts of the fragmented bus and rail networks will be put back together — but according to *ownership* rather than *mode*. On this transport equivalent to Frankenstein, Virgin trains will connect with certain buses but often not with other trains. The book-ahead tickets Virgin is forcing many passengers to buy (by raising the price of all-operator supersaver fares) are not valid on other companies' trains but presumably *will* be on Stagecoach bus links.

The deal also includes instances where the corporate interests of Stagecoach-Virgin may act against the rail network. Opraf blessed a new bus link from Bromsgrove to Birmingham International which may siphon passengers from trains subsidised by Opraf. Those train services are largely in the hands of National Express — one of Stagecoach's arch rivals. In a similar vein Stagecoach is evaluating a coach link from Inverness to Perth, Stirling and Motherwell, using roads which Virgin's Will Whitehorn regards as "under-utilised" and "much better than the railway". He forgets to mention that the trains serving those towns are run by... National Express. The coach would channel London-bound passengers to Virgin trains whereas current rail connections at Edinburgh feed into Great North Eastern Railway, which Virgin regards as a rival.

Five of the ten "new" bus links which so excited Prescott and Opraf are existing Stagecoach services. Three of them connect Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford on a corridor where there are live proposals for reinstating a rail service. Stagecoach has publicly attacked the rail scheme, claiming its coach services are adequate. That claim might seem more credible once the coach services are cemented into the rail network. If Stagecoach fails to kill the Oxbridge project the rail service will logically be run by any of several train operators — none of them owned by Stagecoach or Virgin.

'Dr B. Ching'

PS: The impending arrival of £158m has not made Virgin more generous. A 17-year-old from Yorkshire asked for a refund after floods closed the railway and he had to travel from Scotland by road. A letter from Virgin's customer relations manager Corinne Callahan said reimbursement could not be considered. But it added: "I am enclosing travel vouchers for £.00 [*sic*]. I hope that you will be able to use these towards a future, more satisfactory journey with us."

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

Manchester

THE Labour-run council's plans to wreck Manchester's most famous building, the Free Trade Hall (FTH), are in disarray following John Prescott's shock decision to reject the proposal to turn it into a 20-storey hotel.

The deputy prime minister overturned his own inspector's recommendation that it should go ahead (why *did* inspector John Grey approve?) so botched were Manchester's plans. Had the scheme gone ahead, the city would have sold the hall to developers for as little as £4m which would have been spent on a new under-size convention centre. Great... except the planned centre would have been so small delegates would have had to use another nearby building as well.

At least Prescott's decision is one in the eye for council leader Richard Leese. The council has deliberately run down the FTH this decade and its claim that the building serves no purpose is the usual nonsense. Manchester, astonishingly, has had no public hall — something even the smallest village can offer — since the FTH closed.

How Wales works...

FRAUD squad investigations at the Vale of Glamorgan council are now embracing the links between the authority and League of Wales soccer champions Barry Town.

Shaun "The Credit Card Kid" Stringer, who was forced to step down as leader of the Labour-controlled authority over the use of council plastic, is on the penalty spot again.

The club's Jenner Park ground is owned by the council which recently spent £80,000 on improvements. Sponsorship costs the council another £15,000 a year, and it also forks out £75,000 annually for taking part in a football coaching programme. The club's commercial manager is Shaun Stringer.

Swimmers in Cardiff meanwhile are peeved about being left high and dry by Russell Goodway, leader of Cardiff county borough council. They blame him for the council's failure to replace the city's 50-metre Empire Pool, demolished to make way for the new Millennium rugby stadium.

Work has not started on the new pool, part of a £240m sports village in Cardiff Bay, because a £9m lottery grant towards its construction has been withheld until the council produces full plans. These have been delayed because the council and the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation (CBDC) have yet to agree on the scheme.

The cock-up led the *South Wales Echo* to demand an apology from Goodway and the CBDC's chief executive Michael Boyce. But the *Echo* missed the most curious aspect of the saga: that Goodway and three other councillors are themselves members of the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, earning more than £5,500 a year each for half a day a week.

The strange lapse in communication between the council and the corporation can doubtless be explained by the fact that CBDC members have all signed an agreement to keep its dealings confidential. It would have been entirely inappropriate, therefore, for Russell Goodway the quango member to have had any detailed communication with Russell Goodway the council leader!

Tower Hamlets

BETTY "the Bung" Wright, the ex-Tower Hamlets Liberal councillor who was damned by the report in the early 1990s into market trader corruption at Petticoat Lane for illegally sub-letting her aunt's stall, is back in business.

At the time the Liberal council harassed legitmate stallholder Terry Smith, whose pitch Wright wanted. Ironically she now has a pitch only yards from the beleaguered Smith. Has she learnt her lesson? Er, no. She's already sub-let her stall again.

Pay News Latest

RULING Liberal Democrats in Stockport recently appointed an "independent" review body to examine councillors' pay and decide whether members were being amply rewarded.

Remarkably the so-called independent body found that Stockport councillors weren't squeezing enough dosh out of the borough's downtrodden citizens. So, come the next round of council tax increases, important councillors will pick up a 66 percent pay rise and some even luckier souls will get 110 percent.

Are these the same Stockport Liberal Democrats who ten years ago handed over £1.15m of public money in "loans" to BCCI, the Bank of Conmen and Cocaine-Sniffers International, and have still not fulfilled their pledge to "personally go and demand the money back from the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi". Er, yup: most of them are.

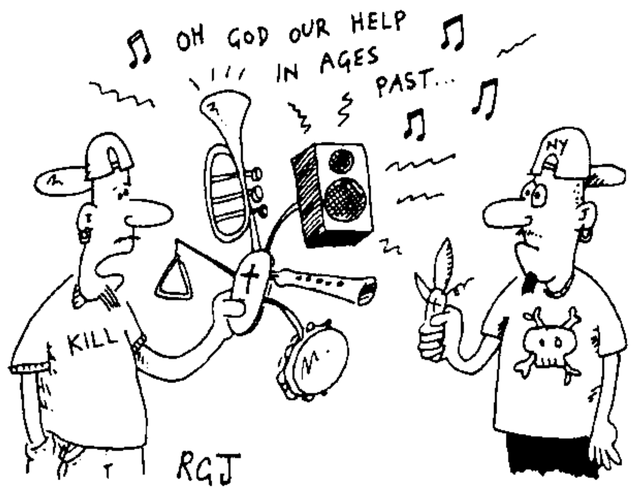
Breckland

A LEAKED transcript of interviews between councillors and officers at Norfolk's Breckland district council contains the following sentence: "Counsel mentioned that the council would fall into disrepute — that this was *Private Eye* stuff. He felt the whole situation looked very seedy". Whatever were they talking about?

Breckland's Labour leader Les Potter had made moves to demolish a listed building while he was sitting on the council's planning committee. The grade two listed Maltings in Dereham had been purchased by the charitable Dereham Activities and Leisure Centre Trust (chairman: Les Potter) in the 1980s with financial help from Dereham town council (which Mr Potter sits on).

The trust got into financial difficulties, frittering away almost £1m through ill-judged investments. By last year the trust didn't even have enough money to repair the crumbling Maltings. An application was made to the planning committee to demolish the building, and despite huge local protest and the advice of council officers the demolition plan was passed (Mr Potter *did* declare an interest and *didn't* vote on the matter). The department of the environment then called in the application. Although Breckland got legal advice that it would lose the inquiry it still pressed on.

Les Potter has now left the planning committee after a members' panel inquiry found he had engaged in "lobbying" councillors and officers over the future of the Maltings. The council's assistant solicitor Mike Horn noted: "A lay person would see it as highly suspicious that the planning committee would allow demolition of a listed building when the agent for the trust was the leader of the Labour group, especially against an officer's recommendations and counsel's very strong advice to the contrary". Indeed.



"It's a Salvation Army Knife..."

Pseuds Corner

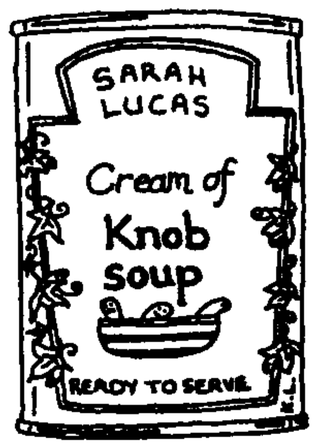
Nietzsche was misspelt twice in yesterday's Country Diary, page 22.

"Corrections and clarifications"
Guardian

Honyman Gillespie Lectures 1998/Lister Post-Graduate Institute — Breast disease in Edinburgh — Its association with the songs of Frank Sinatra by Mr J M Dixon, Edinburgh Breast Unit, WGH, East Medical SR, RIE, 5pm. Lectures are open to all Graduates and Senior Students.

University of Edinburgh Bulletin

The first time I saw Sarah Lucas's work in 1992, I was looking at a large photo called Soup Of The Day, a horrible, disgusting soup, orangey in colour with knob ends of varying sizes stuck in to it. I remember trying to make out if they were all the same penis, when I heard someone say over my shoulder, "Poor Sarah. She could have used a computer-generated image." It was then that I knew this woman was a flaming genius.



TRACEY EMIN
Guardian

The outrageous thesis: an utilitarian investigation into the publicly-funded university's institutional essence via an examination of the genealogy of its professional-behaviour control system. *Emersen, H.B. Manchester Ph.D. 1997*

A modern-day Odyssey into the institutional essence of the Canadian English-language university by an utilitarian middle-class accounting professor, concerned for the inconsistencies inherent in a professional-behaviour control system motivating velocity of scholarly publication in context of clientele/patronal need for knowledge proclamation. Drawing upon Weber's cross-cultural analysis of legitimate authority, the mediaeval tournament is used to model the credentialing essence of the publicly-funded university, its professorial-behaviour control system and attendant scholarly-publication infrastructure, and control initiatives of the societal-resource broker subsidising its operations.

Aslib Index to Thesis Volume 47 Part I 1998

225: Shirley Eaton
A pair of briefs of rose and cream imitation lace, labelled *St Michael*; accompanied by a colour still of Shirley Eaton in the love scene with Sean Connery in the 1964 United Artists/Eon film *Goldfinger* (printed later) showing Shirley Eaton [Jill Masterson] wearing a seemingly identical pair of briefs beneath her pyjama top — *8x10in. (20.3 x 35.5cm)*; and an autographnote in Shirley Eaton's hand stating that these briefs were worn by her and although the label on them suggests that this particular pair post-date the film, they are identical to the ones she wore in *Goldfinger* and in a style she particularly favoured and wore in the 1960s and early 1970s.
£200-300

Christie's sale catalogue

The heroes of my age were young musicians who thrust two fingers at authority and manifested our dissent. Bob Dylan's ballads, the rage of Jimi Hendrix and the social commentaries of the Beatles were our *Iliad*. To be young in the late 1960s was to be part of the biggest transfer of generational power since the Alexandrian conquests.

NORMAN LEBRECHT
Daily Telegraph

CONTRIBUTORS: Alasdair Buchan, Dr Francis Wray, L. Nolan, H. Salkin and L. Schidlof, Piers Fletcher, J. McInerny.

£10 paid for entries

Letters

Council counsel

Sir,

I don't approve of corruption, junketing and incompetence in local government any more than you do, but I do think that hard-working dedicated councillors (of which there are many, in all parties) deserve a reasonable allowance in return for their efforts. The suggestion (EYE 960) that a council leader whose responsibility allowance increased from under £1,200pa to £10,000 is on a par with a "fat-cat" company director is ridiculous and unfair. The real scandal is expecting someone to take on such a difficult and demanding job for not much over £1,000 a year in the first place. How many PRIVATE EYE journalists would do it?

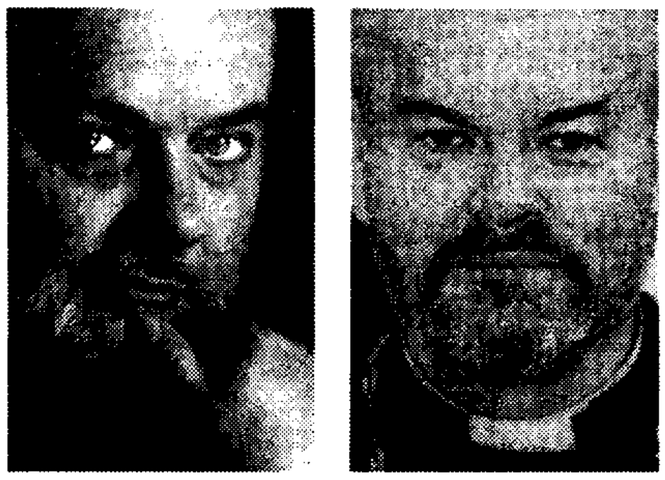
It is politically difficult for councillors to vote themselves increases, with the result that often they receive tiny allowances in relation to work done, responsibility taken and leisure time foregone. Locally elected politicians are a necessary part of our democracy and deserve a fair wage as much as anyone else.

Your exposure of the real rogues in local government is much appreciated. It is, however, devalued by your failure to recognise that many councillors actually deserve far more than they now get. And, no, I am not a councillor.

Yours faithfully,
DR MARTIN A. FORD,

Fintray, Aberdeen.

Lookalike



Bishop

Peel

Sir,

Since when has John Peel been Bishop of London? PRIVATE EYE owes it to the nation to reveal the truth about this DJ's double identity.

JOHN ALTMAN (Actor),

Kingston Upon Thames.

Tony awards

Sir,

Re: Rotten Boroughs, Wales (EYE 961). I realise I risk being awarded the OBN for what I'm about to say. However, I find your use of prime minister Tony Blair's words on council corruption, taken in the context of the arrest of 18 serving and former Blaenau Gwent councillors, quite out of order.

Both as leader of the opposition and as prime minister Tony Blair has all along rightly taken a very firm and hard line on council corruption — and, moreover, regardless of the party to which offending councillors belong.

Yours in justice,
TIM HALL,

London SW15.

Ana Gram

Sir,

In the light of recent goings-on in Blackpool, I thought the disgruntled hard left might like to know that "Labour Party Conference" is an anagram of "Unenforceable Tory crap".

Nuff said.

Yours etc,
JONATHAN KREEGER,

London SE22.

Greasing the Palmer

Sir,

HP Sauce speculates on my connection to my pre-election employers, Novartis. The actual position is this. When I left Novartis, I offered to give them an MP's perspective of public opinion on life sciences issues. Novartis has in turn paid for the printing of newsletters to constituents. The details are in the MPs' register of interests.

I've personally received zero pounds from them. Novartis has never tried to influence anything that I do or say, and in fact we often disagree on issues, but they seem happy to hear critical views too.

Yours sincerely,
NICK PALMER,

Labour MP for Broxtowe.

Party poopers

Sir,

While it is always a delight to receive public acclaim in an organ as notable as PRIVATE EYE, your first sentence on our company (EYE 961) was pretty wide of the mark. Hobbs Associates has never carried out lobbying activities, and never intends to. Neither do we have any brief for public relations work on behalf of London Underground.

But the really offensive comment — for which I hereby demand an apology — was that we attended the Conservative party conference. I have asked around the office, and the common consensus is that every one of us would prefer an unreformed Gazza to any member of Her Majesty's opposition as a social companion.

Yours sincerely,
DICK HOBBS,

Hobbs Associates,Heathfield, East Sussex.

All Saints preserved

Sir,

It is interesting to read another view of All Saints Church, Hereford (EYE 961), but Piloti perhaps did not know that there was a strong diocesan move to close the church; for it to become a prestige office or be wrecked as an arts centre (as is a church in our city). When of course its beautiful interior would be rarely seen again as a large meeting hall — which surely is what churches were meant to be. Nor would there be a chance for Piloti or me to see the wonderful medieval rude carving in the restaurant eating area along with many another sculpture of that era.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN MOTTRAM,

Salisbury.

*PS: No! My nephew the vicar has **not** put me up to writing the above letter.*

O'Boulez on Boulez

Sir,

What a load of patronising, offensive, Francophobe crap O'Boulez wrote about Pierre Boulez (EYE 961).

For a start, his English is perfect. And for seconds, who is this sad "embattled writer of tonal melodies" git you trotted out as an effective questioner? If he's so good, why didn't you name him?

Yours more knowledgeably than you,
CHRISTOPHER MORLEY,

Halesowen.

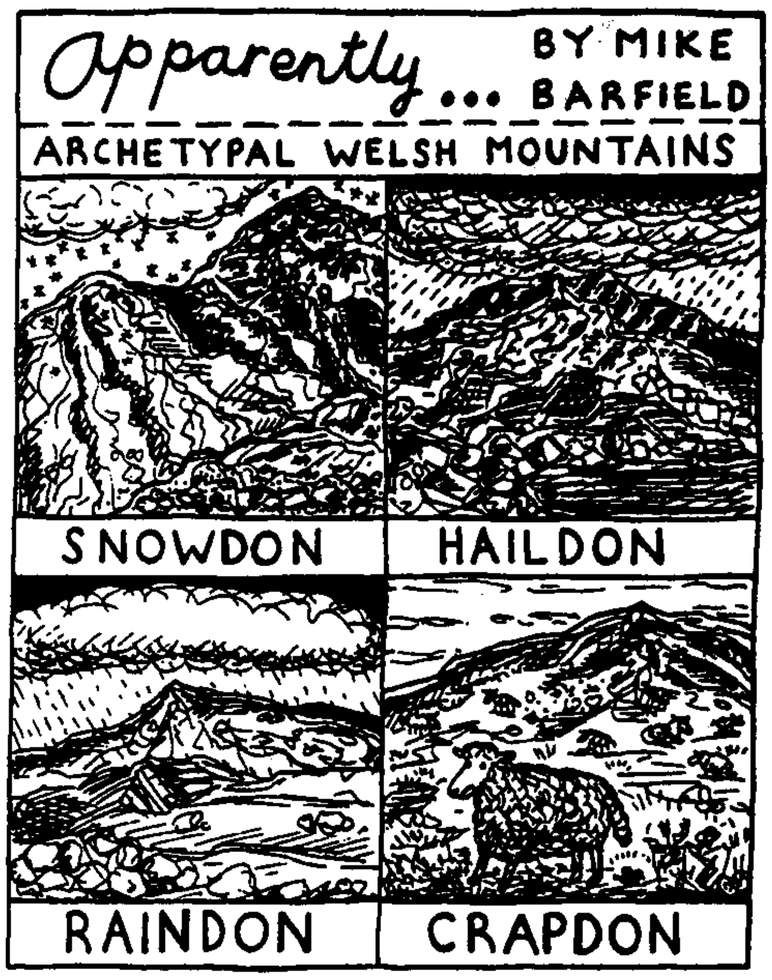


Photo opportunity

Sir,

I see that Rupert Murdoch has taken up with a woman of Asian descent who is much younger than him.

Does the Dirty Digger encourage a similar practice among his staff? Perhaps you have some pictures of current, or former, employees that would help us understand his thoughts on this matter.

Yours,
MALCOLM COLES,

Via e-mail.

Piste off

Sir,

While delighted to see your piece exposing THE GOOD SKIING GUIDE from Which? (everything you say is true!), we are concerned that virtually everyone who read the article thought that it referred to us. We are THE GOOD SKI GUIDE, Britain's biggest circulation ski magazine, and we are in no way connected with THE GOOD SKIING GUIDE nor with its publishers Which?

We would be obliged if you could draw this to the attention of your readers.

In case you are wondering why there are two publications with such similar titles, we had been going for some five years when Which? launched their book. Being a small company at the time we didn't have the financial resources to fight the might of the giant Consumers Association.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HILL,

Editor, Good Ski Guide.

Straightened out

Sir,

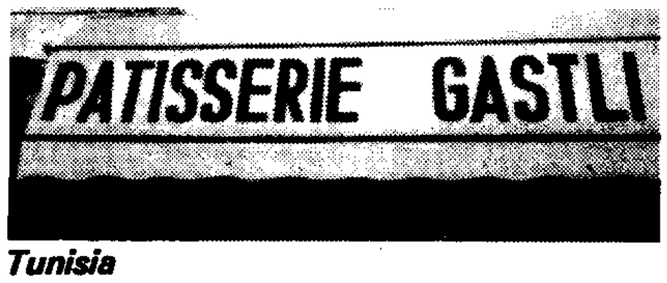
On the Street of Shame page in the EYE of 16 October you take the INDEPENDENT to task for mis-spelling the word "strait-jacket". The joke is a little spoiled, however, by your own spelling of the word "strait-laced", in the article on the same page about Paul Johnson's diaries. As Jane Austen (or for that matter Miss Whiplash) would be happy to point out, strait is something other than straight. I hope that's all straight now.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK JOHNS,

A.P. Watts Ltd, Literary Agents,London WC1.

I-SPY

Budapest



Tunisia

France

Submitted by M. Cannell, Bob Jefford and Jeremy Westhead. £10 paid for similar submissions. ***(SAE required for return of photographs. No transparencies.)***

Grant aided

Sir,

Thank you for your piece in Literary Review on my attempts to find a copy of THE TIME OUT BOOK OF INTERVIEWS, 1968-1998 in Oxford Street. It constitutes the best single publicity boost this collection has had, a work so fine that it almost ranks alongside an average EYE annual. Two points however.

It is not "my book", nor even "my worthy tome". It was edited by the indefatigable Frank Broughton. I merely have a few entries in it: Steven Berkoff, Kathy Acker, Alan Bleasdale, Issey Miyake, Julie Walters, Samuel Beckett, Paul McCartney, Al Goldstein, Robert DeNiro, Harold Pinter, Spike Milligan, and Jerry Springer. A small fraction of my output, but pick the bones out of that lot, Lynn Barber and A.A. Gill. Maybe if I changed my name to RAC Grant and started behaving like a member of the Drones Club someone would offer me two hundred and twenty grand a year. Or do I really have to sleep with Simon Kelner?

Also I don't remember calling Richard Branson a "cunt" in Virgin Megastore. I still have fond memories of a brief working relationship with the Great Man, particularly one afternoon in Portobello Road when he picked my backpocket from a slow-moving sports car. He even returned the fiver later — the only time I ever saw him use money.

Huge Hugs,
STEVE GRANT,

Executive Editor, Time Out, London W1.

Scotch egg-head

Sir,

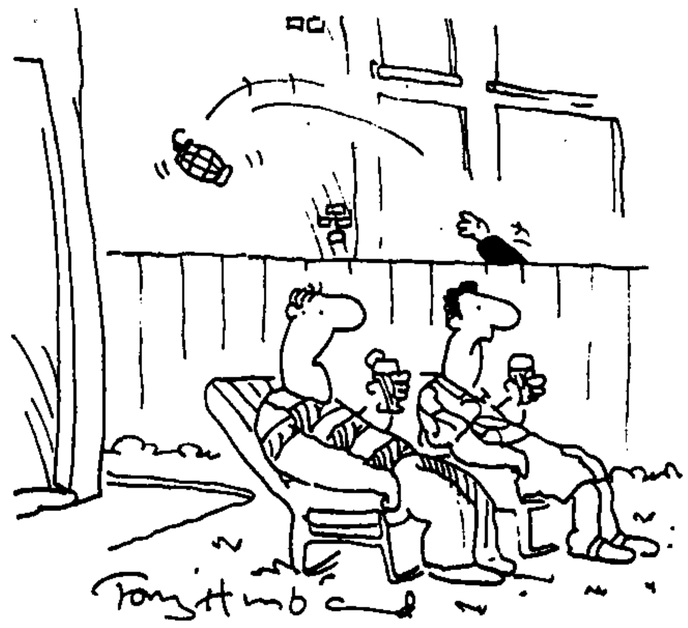
I was intrigued by a piece in the last Street of Shame highlighting an error made by Trevor Kavanagh, the SUN's political editor, when suggesting separate Scottish and English parliaments were a bad idea.

Your correspondent quotes Kavanagh as saying: "The Act of Union which put the two countries under one monarch in 1707 created the world's first single market. The two countries formed a powerful alliance that fought off the French in the 100 Years War and paved the way for the British Empire."

The correspondent then points out that the normally accepted dates for the 100 Years War are 1337-1453. It might be useful to readers to know that the Act of Union in 1707 united the parliaments of Scotland and England — not their monarchs.

The Union of the Crowns creating a single monarchy for both countries took place in 1603.

Regards,
PAUL HUNTER, Via e-mail.



"How are you getting on with your neighbours now?"

PR for BR

Sir,

So, PE's old friends Stagecoach have purchased half of the Virgin rail franchise. We are reliably informed that, as a result, passengers (sorry) customers will now benefit from better connections between the two franchises and have access to special fares on their combined train services.

What a wonderful concept! Surely then, if all the rail franchises could be persuaded to amalgamate, then the whole country would benefit from special fares within a fully integrated rail system. And to celebrate this potential great British achievement in rail cooperation, the new system could be given a suitably impressive name, like... um... British Rail.

VICTOR DAMSKI,

Brighton, E. Sussex.

Bangkok to rights

Sir,

I doubt that I am the only reader to notice the "uncanny" resemblance between the Funny Old World story (reportedly spotted this year) in issue number 961, and the story of "The Least Successful Piano Recital" in Stephen Pile's THE BOOK OF HEROIC FAILURES (published in 1979). Both describe a piano in Bangkok which sticks in D and then F, and a pianist who attacks it with a fire axe.

Regards,
MARTIN LEESE,

Canada.

Greenwich observed

Sir,

I refer to the letter Mean time? (EYE 960) from John McWilliam of the University of Greenwich about the university's move to the Royal Naval College. In paragraph three, he is being economic with the truth: "Contrary to the assertions in the article, our staff and students are fully behind our decision to occupy the Royal Naval College..."

Neither staff nor students were ever consulted in advance of the move nor are they happy with the way they have been steamrollered into the move. I have worked at the university for 16 years (plus) and not once was I ever asked if I was fully behind the decision to occupy the Royal Naval College.

Staff have been faced with cutbacks and downright penny pinching from management all because of this so-called status symbol project in Greenwich (it is known as the "white elephant" among the staff). What makes a university is not where it is or what buildings it has, but a reputation of good teaching, results and support.

Given the current atmosphere at the university between management and staff, I'm afraid I must ask to be...

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

Sir,

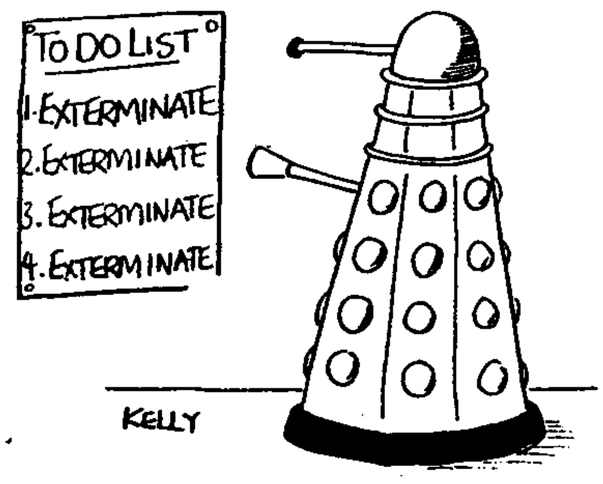
Whilst encouraged by John McWilliam's new found empathy for some of the buildings his university currently inhabits (Letters, EYE 960), spare a moment to check out Southwood House.

This small Victorian pile on the Avery Hill site used by university big-wigs was "sympathetically" restored a few years back under the stewardship of one John McWilliam.

I've often wondered whether false ceilings, covering original cornicing and dropped a foot or two below the top of the original sash windows, enabling those outside to see into the void, was a common Victorian technique.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN PEW,

London EC4.



Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"It's not just money, there's financial problems as well."
GERRY FRANCIS, BBC Radio 5
(Peter Jones)

"It is better for managers to start out at smaller clubs like Shrewsbury or Carlisle, than to be handed a top job on a silver bed of roses."
RON ATKINSON, Radio 5 Live
(Michael White)

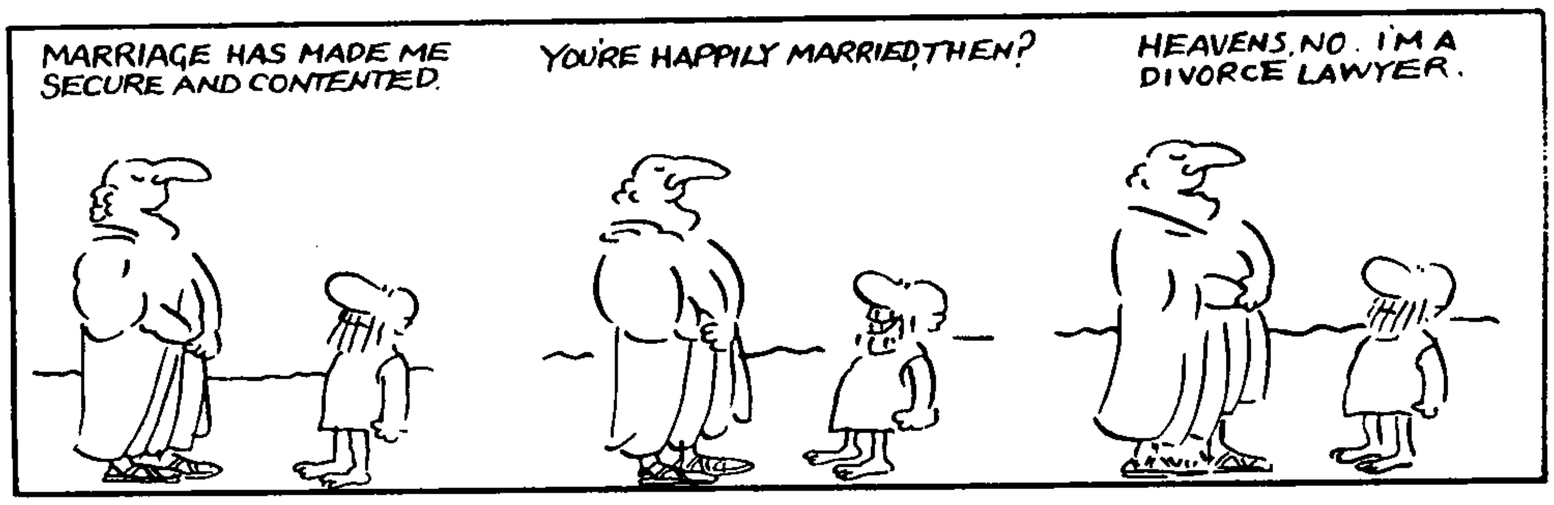
"Street hockey is great for kids. It's energetic, competitive, and skilful. And best of all it keeps them off the street."
CONTRIBUTOR, Radio 1 Newsbeat
(Giles Warner)

"There's only one place you want to be and that's Wembley, Old Trafford or Anfield."
MICK CHANNON, BBC
(Steve Speight)

Denise van Outen: *So where can you get all these books from then?*
Book reviewer: *From a book shop.*
Denise van Outen: *A book shop, great.*
Big Breakfast, Channel 4
(Fraser Thomas)

HOM SAP

BY DAVID AUSTIN



FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

"I know they are human beings, and eating them is disgusting," Doctor Yang admitted to a reporter in the Sin Hua clinic in Shenzhen, "but eating foetuses can make your skin smoother, your body stronger, and they are also good for kidneys. When I was in an army hospital in Jiangti province, I often brought foetuses home. They were pink, like little mice, with hands and feet. Normally, I buy some pork to make soup with dried mushrooms, and I pop in a few foetuses at the end, being careful not to overcook."

The same reporter, who travelled from Hong Kong to Shenzhen to investigate the burgeoning foetus trade, found supplies readily available. "There are ten foetuses here, all aborted this morning," a doctor in the Shenzhen Health Centre said, holding out a glass bottle stuffed with thumbsized embryos. "You can take them. We are a state hospital and don't charge anything. Normally we doctors take them home to eat – all free – and they're very tasty. Since you don't look well, you can take them."

Shenzhen doctors defended their actions by saying that the embryos were good for their skin and general health. Hospital cleaning women were seen fighting with each other to take the treasured human remains home, after doctors promoted their consumption as a sexual tonic. One former consumer, a Mr Cheng from Hong Kong, told how he once made regular trips across the border to obtain supplies. "I carried a Thermos flask to Shenzhen and brought the foetuses back to Hong Kong to make soup with dried mushrooms. If they gave me twenty or thirty at a time, I put them in the refrigerator. I didn't have the soup every day – it depended on the supply. Usually, I washed the foetuses clean, and added ginger, orange peel, and dried mushrooms to make soup. After taking it for a while, I felt a lot better and my asthma disappeared. I used to take placenta, but it was not so tasty as foetuses." *(Hong Kong Eastern Express, September 1998. Spotter: Sean Donnellan)*

● *"I welcome you to visit my island, your worship," Posi Pureio told a magistrate's court in Suva, Fiji. "Then you could witness for yourself that it really is a tradition for men and women to touch each other's private parts during the festive season. You see, I was only doing what my tradition said to do."*

Pureio, a twenty-two-year-old unemployed man from Rabi Island, was charged with indecent assault, after an incident involving a Seaqaqa student. "The accused followed the young woman on her way to bathe in the Seaqaqa school," prosecuting counsel told the court. "He hid while the girl was having her shower, and spied on her. Then he crept out of his hiding place and began fondling her breasts. Fortunately she screamed, alerting people nearby, and Pureio was seen running away."

Rejecting Pureio's defence, Magistrate Syed Mukhtar Shah remarked that "if the tradition you have described really exists on your island, then it is a disgusting and revolting one. Surely there must be other ways of celebrating the festive season." Imposing a nine-month prison sentence for indecent assault, he added, "I strongly advise you to get married as soon as you are released, to avoid any repetition of this offence." (Fiji's Daily Post, 29 August 1998. Spotter: Anon)

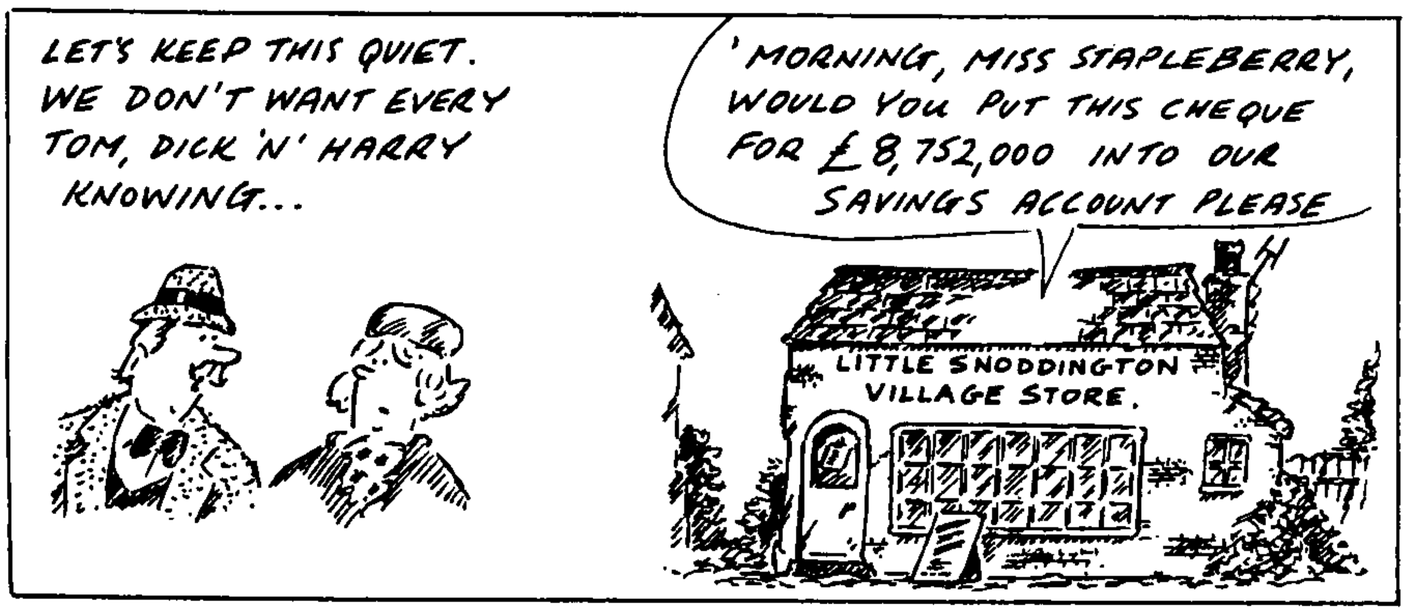
—●—

● "Say goodbye to wet mail with the latest design from The Safety Letter Box Company. Our innovative new letterbox has already been fitted in Benefit Agency Offices throughout North Wales, and does away with the misery of

wet weekend mail. If your offices are near a pub, and you find that its customers are using your letterbox as a lavatory, then our new product is the answer you've been looking for. When the offending stream pours through your letterbox, it will be automatically separated into a chute, and then re-routed to the bottom of the door, out through a hole, and all over the sender's shoes! At last! Here's your chance to take the piss out of them! For full details and a price list, contact The Safety Letter Box Company." *(The Architect, September/October 1998. Spotter: Charles Westendarp)*

The Lottery Winners

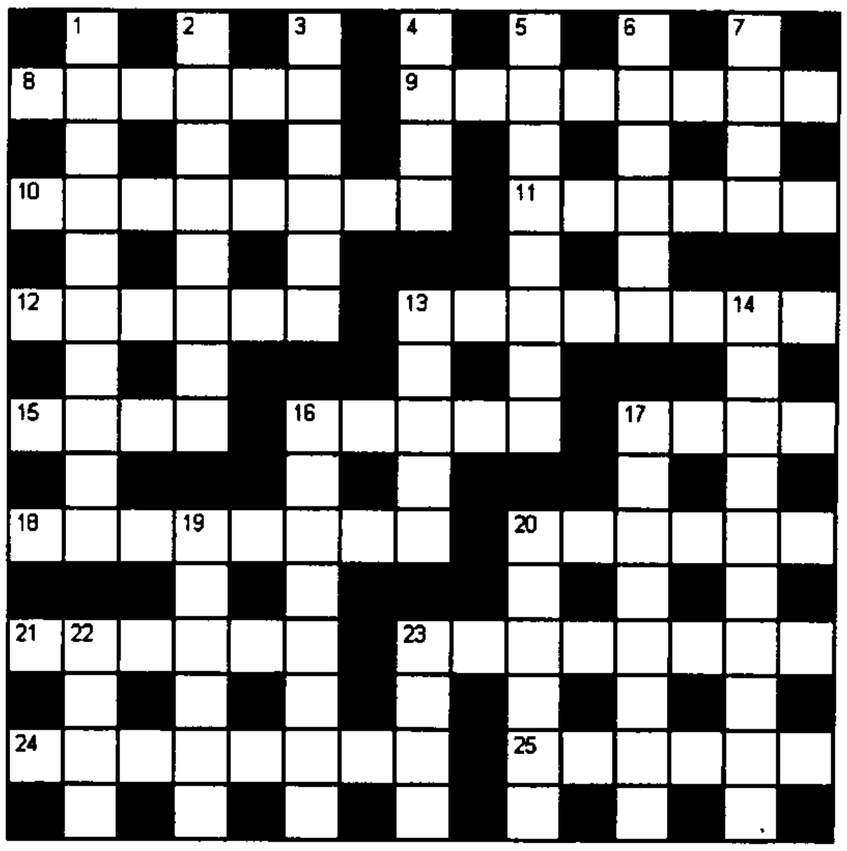
TURNER


LET'S KEEP THIS QUIET. WE DON'T WANT EVERY TOM, DICK 'N' HARRY KNOWING...
'MORNING, MISS STAPLEBERRY, WOULD YOU PUT THIS CHEQUE FOR £8,752,000 INTO OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLEASE
LITTLE SNODDINGTON VILLAGE STORE.

EYE CROSSWORD 117

by Cyclops

£100 prize



ACROSS

8 Yes, Ken could be a big influence on Maggie! (6)
9 Branson's tend to come down quickly – bollocks about, nothing on (8)
10/11 Choice politician's first step: to break it once in office? (8,6)
11 (see 10)
12 (see 20 dn.)
13/17 dn. Former leader emerges from drunken bash, on a stretcher (8,8)
15 Bottle internal organs (4)
16 Failure to maintain erection? That's flipping inadequate on date! (5)
17 Sharp solicitor (4)
18 Brenda: a piece who gets around a lot (3,5)
20 A legal statement made by grass, for example, implicating one (6)
21 Fergie, holding hot one, hard to leave/desert (6)
23 Jerk cosying up to Brenda – not one to go after a common bird (8)
24 Jogging if in drag is hardly decorous (5,3)
25 Sweet and innocent thing? The Blair that's gone and reduced unemployment benefit? (6)

DOWN

1 Corporation to break up, producing gutsy, good-humoured reaction (5,5)
2 Perhaps Black Rod gets pole bust (8)
3 Top journalist finally right in the mire (1-5)
4 An award we give arse-lickers imbibing one small port (4)
5 VD – enmesh balls (8)
6 (see 22)
7 Has no goolies; neck's tucked in (4)
13 Minister having got a bit of a roasting? (5)
14 The cry of those who would have certain felons suspended (6,2,2)
16 Wilts without having an erection when resolute conservatives appear (3-5)
17 (see13ac)
19 Hunting fraternity's target, this blasted place (6)
20/12 Pop star (or so he called himself), a square TV-wise, who was devoted to Queen (6,6)
22/6 Only been screwed while held by one royal who went topless (4,6)
23 Habit of piss artist imbibing many pints – fetched up (4)

£100 prize to first solution opened on 6.11.98. Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG.

Solution to Crossword No. 116

Winner: ANDREW HOOD

ACROSS: 1/18 The Royal Standard 5 Abroad 10 Press 11 Polythene 12 First Lady 13 Yanks 14 Gorge 16 Sponsor 19 Titanic 21 Judge 23 Nooky 25 Injection 27 Apologist 28 Olive 29 Duffer 30 Nutshell.

DOWN: 1 Tip-off 2 Eyes right 3 Onset 4 Appease 6/20 Betty Ford Clinic 7 Odeon 8 (see 26) 9 Lloyds 15 Runny nose 17 Sterilize 18 (see 1 ac.) 20 (see 6) 21 Ju-jitsu 22 Unveil 24 On-off 26/8 Cross-dressers.

JUNOR WINS FICTION PRIZE

by our Literary Staff **Lunchtime O'Bookz**

THE 1998 Booker Prize for Fiction has been won by a middle-aged woman who has previously been shortlisted on several occasions.

Penny Junor, 67, won the prize with her touching story of a fifty-year-old man who finds love and happiness after the tragic death of his wife. "Master Charlie", a historical novel, is based on a real life character and although she has done no research, Miss Junor reserves the right to exercise her imagination in order to earn a great deal of money *(surely 'discern the artistic truth of the situation'? Ed)*. Her previous novels "Prince Charles is Marvellous", "Hooray for Charles" and "Charlie is my Darling" all explored a similar character and were described by critics at the time as "inspired fantasy", "classic fiction writing" and "tale telling of the first order".

Penny Dreadful

However, a disappointed fellow nominee, Lady Antonia Holden made a scene at the prize giving ceremony at the Guildhall.

An emotional Antonia, 75, attacked the judges, shouting: "I should have won the prize. She copied the whole story from my book. I made it all up first."

But the judges held firm to their decision, saying: "We can't all win, particularly not Prince Charles."

Camilla Parker Bowles is 107.

ALFAYED MEMORIAL RESTORED

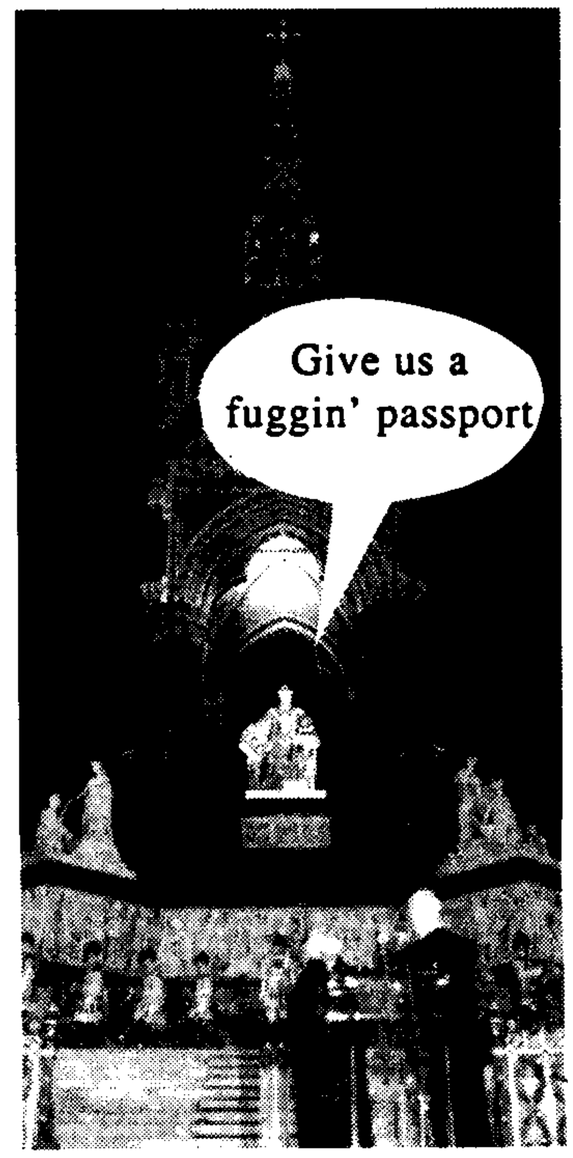
by **Albert Hall**

THE famous Al Fayed Memorial situated only a stone's throw from Harrods Department Store has finally been restored to its former squalor.

For years this landmark has been covered with a shiny layer of money giving it an appearance of opulence and grandeur.

However, it has at last, thanks to the efforts of master craftsman Tom Bower and his assistants, been painstakingly restored to its original state of dirt and sleaze.

Fireworks were exploded last night as the monument was unveiled and crowds flocked to witness the statue of the Great Royal Patron known for his philanthropic generosity to fallen MPs, policemen and prostitutes.



POETRY CORNER

Lines on the decision to correct the perceived sexist approach to women in the James Bond cinematic canon

So. Farewell
Then

The Bond
Girls.

Pussy Galore.
Plenty
O'Toole.

Holly Goodhead.

Those were
Your names.

Who will
Replace you?

Germaine Greer
Suzanne Moore

And Camille
Paglia.

I for one
Cannot wait.

E.J. Womens-Thribb (0017½)

The Royal National Theatre proudly presents

CARRY ON CLEO

by William Shakespeare

starring

Barbara Windsor as Helen Mirren

Jim Dale as Alan Rickman

Has Cleopatra gone starkers when she falls in love with Raunchy Roman Romeo, Mark Antony. "What a lovely asp you've got there Cleo!" says Tony, spotting a chance of getting his legion-over!

Don't miss it! Book now because this one will not run and run!

Children's BBC New Line(s)-Up

The Snow Man
Raymond Briggs' heartwarming fantasy. A little boy's life is changed when his strange new friend gives him some white powder and convinces him that he can fly. Highly animated.

Jackupanory
Liam Gallagher reads today's classic story: Beatrix Pothead's "Tale of Two Bad Trips".

Rosie & Jim
Starring Rosie Boycott

Cartoon Time
Triple Bill: Drugrats, Will O'The Whizz and Popper Eye.

Sesame Street-Value
Toddlers can learn to count in denominations of 0.25oz. Today's letter is Magic E!

Ganja Hill
It's nearly time for the School Trip for the kids in "Class A". But someone is already in trouble for pushing in the corridors...

Postman Pot
Everyone in Greendale has a big smile when Pat makes one of his special courier deliveries.

Blow Peter
Katy recycles 3 million copies of the 1999 Annual in the waste-paper bank, and today's Make-Do requires a large tube of glue (or other solvent). If you want to help this year's Sniffer Dogs appeal, send your old tin foil, disposable razorblades or carefully rolled up fivers to the usual *(That's enough. Ed).*

GNOMEBY'S

Forthcoming Sale Property of a Somerset Gentleman, Lord Rees Mogg

1 **Ebony and Brass Croquet Mallet** (slightly scratched)

1 **Croquet Hoop** (manufactured by Wickham and Snodgrass, Croquet Hoop Providers to the gentry, Shepton Croquet Mallet)

1 **Pair of Grey Flannel Trousers** (scuffed at the knees with label "W Rees-Mogg, A Dorm, St. Cakes.")

1 **Photograph in Decorated Silver-Plated Frame** (in need of polishing) showing the owner as Editor of the *Times* taking orders from his proprietor, R Murdoch

1 **Copy Nostradamus's "Prophecies"** (heavily annotated and reproduced in owner's *Times* column)

1 **Copy "The Bluffers' Guide to Economics"** (with many paragraphs underlined in red ink by the owner)

1 **Garrick Club Tie** (slightly stained with soup, possibly Brown Windsor)

Viewing starts today

GNOMEBY'S

LONDON — NEW YORK — CASTLE CARY

"We bid you welcome"

ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

Hullo!

Well, we all turned our clocks back on Sunday so the nights are drawing in, the leaves are falling from the trees, and it's hard not to feel a little bit gloomy!

I'm sure that's why a number of people around the parish are saying "Vicar (***Tony***, please!), am I right in saying that hard times are coming?"

And I say to them, "Yes, of course they're not!" And I'll tell you why! It's only natural that nights get darker, leaves fall off the trees and people lose their jobs!

As the book of Excusiastes says, "There is a time and a place for everything." (7, 14)

"A time to laugh and a time to cry; a time to dance and a time to get the sack."

Do you remember it was a song by the Seekers? I used to play it on my guitar at our Student Fellowship Cheese and Wine Evenings to welcome the freshmen and the overseas students! (And I played it rather well actually!)

So, look, there are obviously going to be a few rough patches in our lives, particularily our financial lives, when things don't go quite as well as Mr Brown told us all they would!

You can't blame the vicar for that! It would be like blaming me for the weather!

And, remember, what comes after winter? It's springtime, of course, when the sun comes out, the birds begin to sing and everyone gets their jobs back!

So, it'll all turn out fine in the end! Trust me, folks!

Or, if you don't trust me, trust the Good Book, where it says, "All's well that ends well"!

And let's think again about this business of putting the clocks back.

Surely, in a real sense, we shouldn't be putting the clock of our Life ***back***. No, that's just like wanting to go back to the bad old days, when people expected the

vicar to look after them, and run their lives for them!

(Some of our old folk still hanker after those days! Mr Benn and Mrs Castle may know who I'm thinking of!)

But what we need, in the spirit of the new St Albion's, is to put the clock *forward*, to the next millennium and beyond!

That's what I've tried to get across in a special chorus I've written for this Sunday's evensong (which will begin symbolically at 4 o'clock, instead of 6.30!).

"Forward, forward go the clocks
Upward we must pull our socks!
Skies may be black, but never fear,
Springtime days will soon be here!

Chorus

Stand, stand, stand on your
own two feet,
Stand, stand, stand on your
own two feet,
Stand, stand, stand on your own
own two feet,
And never admit defeat."

©Words and Music Rev. A.R.P. Blair 1998

See you Sunday!

Yours,

Tony

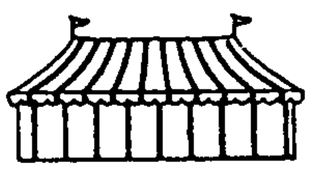
Old Folks Update!

The Vicar is very sorry to hear about the lack of co-operation being shown by some of the residents of our *Sunset Home for Distressed Gentlefolk*, just because we are asking them to vacate the building. Some of them have been scribbling on the walls, making a noise at night and even being personally offensive to the new matron Mrs Jay.

One or two of them have even suggested that Mrs Jay has no real qualifications for her job. This is completely untrue. Mrs Jay is a very old friend of Tony's, and what better qualification could anyone have than that? Other people are asking who is going to be put into the home, when some of the more tiresome current residents are evicted.

The answer is that a fairer system will be worked out in due course, whereby the Vicar himself will decide each case on merit. As Mrs Jay (old Rev. Callaghan's daughter!) puts it "this is better than getting in just because of who your father was".

Mr Cunningham,
Parish Enforcer



Millennium Tent

News+++News+++News

■ My thanks to the **Hinduja brothers** who run the Cash 'n' Carry in the trading estate for their very generous donation to the religious stall in our Millennium Tent. They won't be forgotten. If they ever want a place in the Sunset Home, I am sure the Vicar will be happy to arrange it!

P.S. On the subject of donations and cash gifts to church causes, our thanks are also due to Mr Neill for his report on the financing of the parish. It was very good of him to come up with all his "independent" suggestions, but in the end it isn't at all what we wanted.

■ Thanks also to **Mr Ronald McDonald**, the local manager of the Burger Bar in the High Street who has very generously agreed to provide refreshment in the Millennium Tent. Mr McDonald wishes nothing in return for his support other than the whole event be renamed "The Happy Meal Tent Experience". The PCC saw no problems with this admirable suggestion.

Mr Mandelson, Churchwarden

Writes TB: "After all didn't Our Lord feed the five thousand with a simple Fish 'n' Bap takeaway meal — soft drink not included? I think he did. Let's stop moaning about this and simply "HAVE A NICE DAY!"

Notices

● *There will be a service of reconciliation at St. Albions conducted jointly by the Vicar and the leading Argentinian Minister Father Menem. In order to promote a real feeling of harmony and togetherness there will be no mention at all in the service of the unfortunate Islands that gave rise to so much unpleasantness in the past.* TB

To Remember In Your Prayers

Mr Meale who has got into trouble trying to help out his friends from the Greek Tavern "Freebios". Let us hope he comes to realise that you cannot mix friendship with church business (unless you are the vicar obviously which is entirely different!)

You Write.....

Dear Vicar,

Some of us have recently got together to produce a little pamphlet, to restate the core doctrines which once used to inspire our Church. We feel the central tenets of our traditional creed have been jettisoned to make way for a wishy-washy

Yours faithfully,
E. Hobsbawm,
pp "Marxism In St Albion Today",
The Old Gulag.

■ The Editor reserves the right to cut any letters on the grounds of length. A.C.

THE VICAR ADDS: "It is sad to think that there are still people who believe in an old man with a beard sitting in the British Museum, and telling us all how to live our lives!" T.B.

PRAVDARIEL

NOVEMBER 1998

Chairman Birt denounces 'Enemies of Digital Revolution'

White City, Tuesday

THOUSANDS of loyal Birtistas crammed the Television Centre yesterday to acclaim their great leader Comrade Birt, as he delivered a four-hour speech denouncing "the enemies of the Corporation, ranging from MPs to BBC programme-makers who have failed to understand the central tenets of Birtist-Blandism".

"These bourgeois revisionists and Hussey-ite running dogs," he said, "would take us back to the dark ages when the BBC was respected throughout the world, and produced decent programmes which people wanted to watch."

A Birt In The Bland Is Worth Two In The Bush House

"There is no place in the new BBC," the Great Helmsman declared, "for such revanchist, fogey-ist sentimentalism as cricket, football, tennis, rugby and other minority interests.

"The same applies to radio, which must be consigned to the dustbin of history.

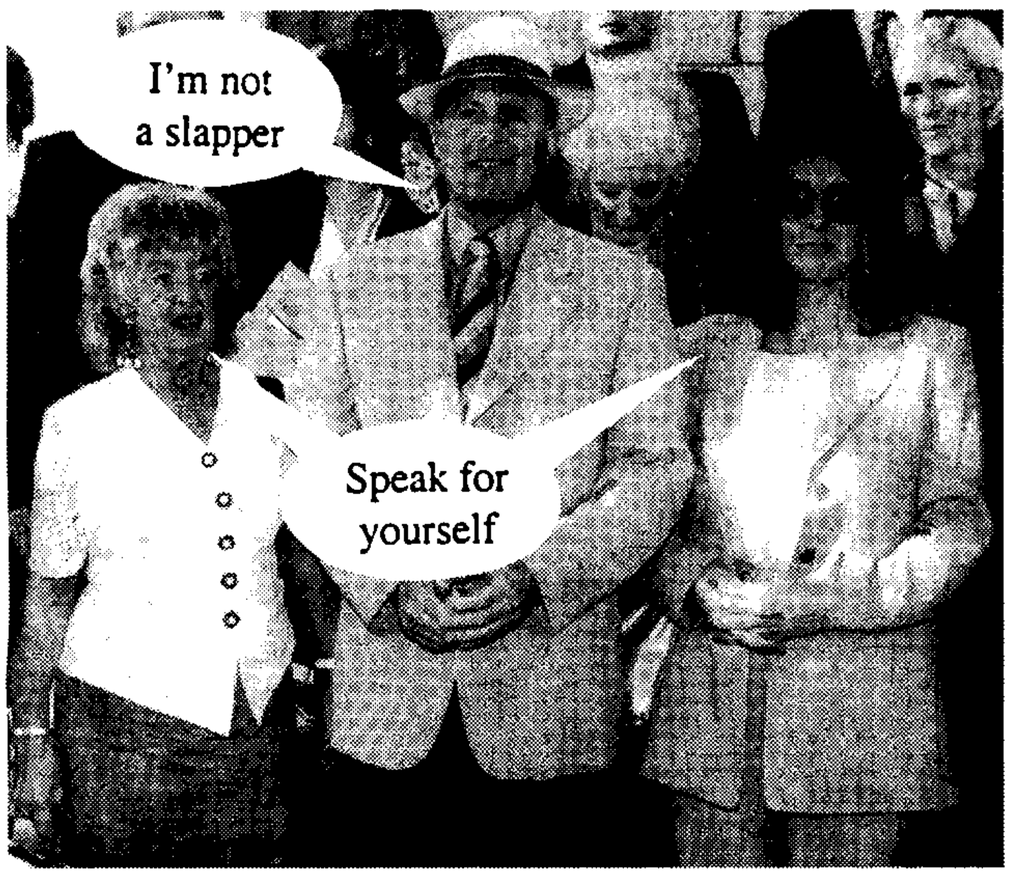
"This is the age of Digitalist Birtism. We must launch millions of channels and fill them with rolling news for 24 hours every day."

As Comrade Birt concluded his peroration, he was given a 24-hour rolling ovation by his faithful followers, Comrades Bannister, Wyatt, Boyle.

In tribute to the achievements of Life Director-General Comrade Birt, the People's Digital Remuneration Committee (Chairman J. Birt) last night announced that, as from today, Comrade Birt is to receive a 1000 per cent pay rise, bringing his salary to £24 million a year.

White City

Tonight's Running Dogs
7.15 Trap Six: Botney's Boy *(nap)*



FRENCH TEST

Boycott wins the Bashes

Lordes, Lundi

CAPTAIN G. Boycott led his all-women team out today having lost the previous test in France by an innings and £800,000.

New Coach Max Clifford said before the match: "Geoff is a good hitter and can knock anyone for six. This French judge should be no trouble, particularly as she is a woman. Oops."

Leg over wicket

Boycott opened the day choosing to go in to bat with his typical defence, ie: saying "She fell over" and sticking to the story until the lunch interval .

He was cheered on by the rest of the team, many of whom have partnered Boycott in various games in the past.

Mutton Dressed As Alan Lamb

Said one: "We love Geoff because once he's in, he stays there for a very long time." *That's enough filth Ed).*

LATE SCORE

Boycott seen in a bad light stopped play.

Exclusive Serialization of the Top Broadcaster's Searing Analysis of our National Identity Today

"THE ENGLISH"

by Jeremy Paxman

Chapter 94
Being Rude to Receptionists

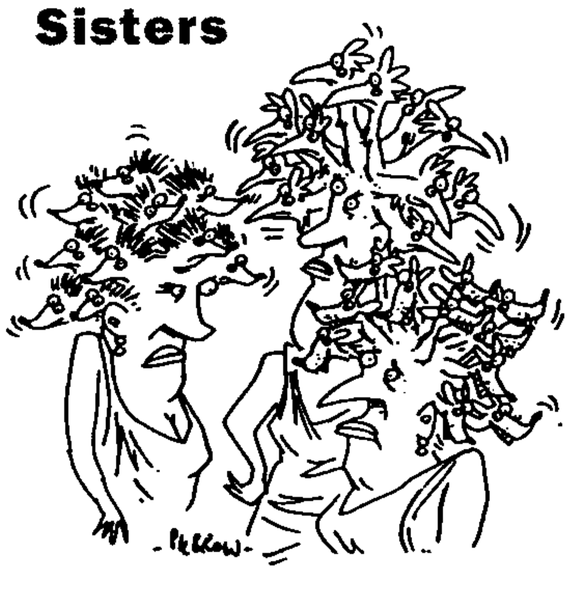
The quintessential Englishman will always treat receptionists in small country hotels with contempt — particularly if he feels he can get away with it due to his status. This is because the Englishman, with his expensive education at public school and Cambridge sees himself as a superior being to the humble 19 year old engaged in "trade". He therefore shouts, calls the girl "Little Miss Sodoff" and generally throws his weight around. Probably writing self-justifying article in *The Times* afterwards.

Chapter 95
Being Rude to Interviewers Whilst Hoping at the Same Time That They will Plug One's Book

A refusal to answer questions by impudent journalists is a hallmark of the English (cont. in all other papers).

How it will look: The new scaled-down Diana Memorial Garden

Medusa's Sisters



NURSERY TIMES

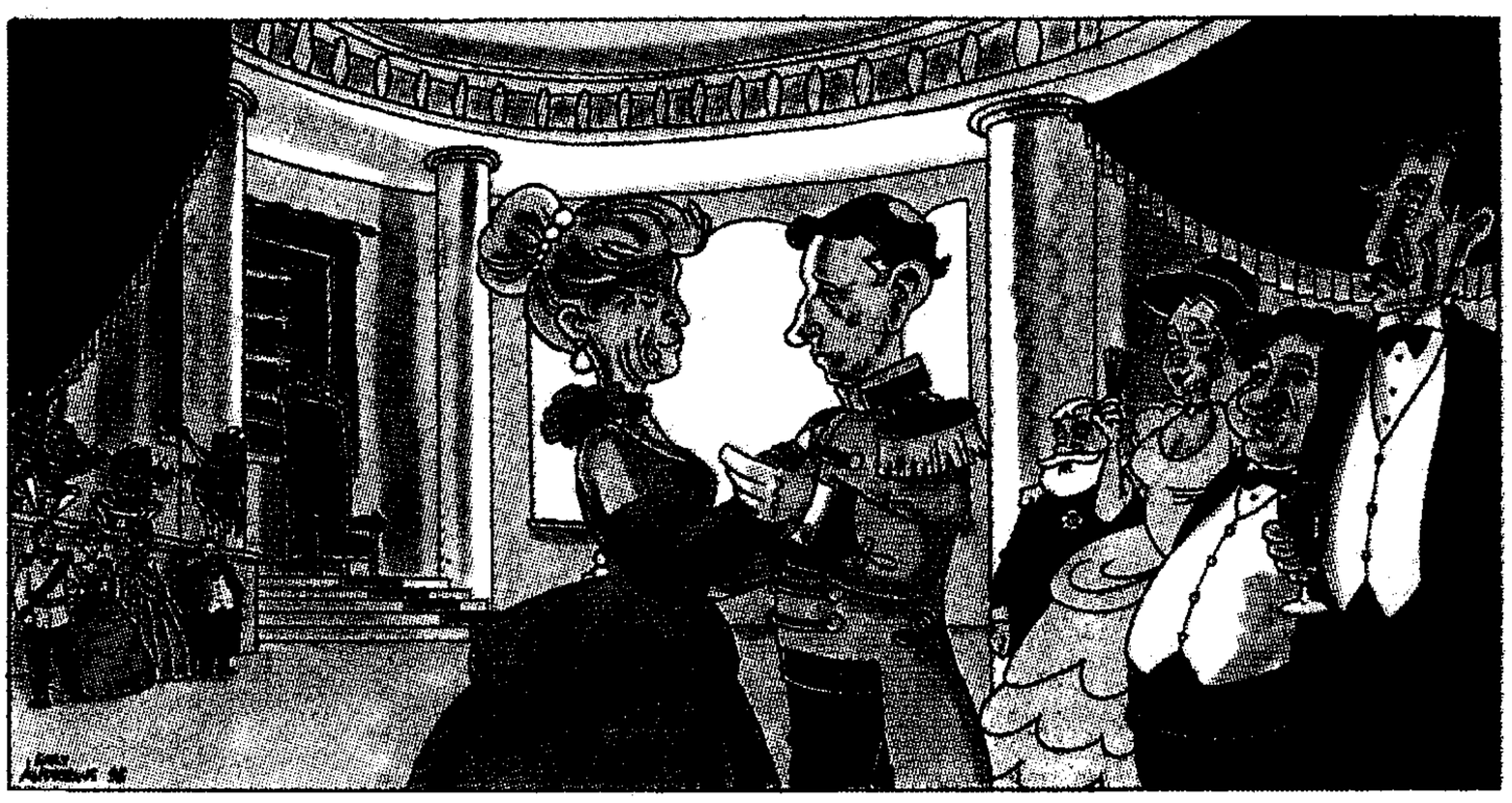
FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 1998

10 CHOCOLATE COINS ON MONDAY

Prince Charming At 50

2000 Friends Attend Grand Ball

by Our Royal Staff **Bad Penny Junor**



AS GUESTS gathered from all over the kingdom to celebrate his 50th birthday, there was general agreement that Prince Charming was entering into a new golden phase of his life which augurs well for the day, we hope still far in the future, when he succeeds to the throne.

As a band of uniformed frogs struck up with a medley of the Prince's favourite songs, including Yin-Tong-Yin-Tong-Diddle-I-Po, the dark shadows seemed at last to have lifted from the Prince's life.

Few now remember the Prince's disastrous marriage to the late Cinderella, Princess of Hearts, which was once described as "a fairytale romance".

Although at the time there was much grief when the Princess died in her coach with the son of the Wicked Sorcerer Ali Baba Fayed, it is now generally accepted in court circles that Cinderella was a manipulative and unscrupulous adventuress, who did Prince Charming serious damage. Everyone now knows that she had an affair with Buttons, her personal footman, and tried to hire the huntsman to kill her love rival in the forest.

Cin-di-rella

And the hostess for the gala evening was none other than that rival, the Prince's longtime consort, Lady Camilla. She of course was one of the so-called ugly sisters and is now recognised as having been the Prince's true love long before the wayward Cinderella made her unfortunate appearance on the scene.

Among those honoured to be present as the new relaxed, mature Prince danced the night away were such Fairyland dignitaries as Sir Stephen Fairy, Sir Nicholas de Soames, the "fattest knight in Christendom", the Lady Candida of the Green, Lord John of Norwich, Lord Hugh Casserole (with his Magic Paintbox) and Mr Squirrel Nutcase, of the Organic Farming and Acupuncture Society.

Among those unfortunately not able to be present was Mr Humpty Dumpster, who recently fell off a wall while drunk, and refused to give a yolk sample to the King's Horses and Men, saying that he had a fear of spoons.

ORANGE SOBET £2.20
Real orange skin filled with a tangy orange sobet.
A light refreshing to an inedible meal

The Golden Oven

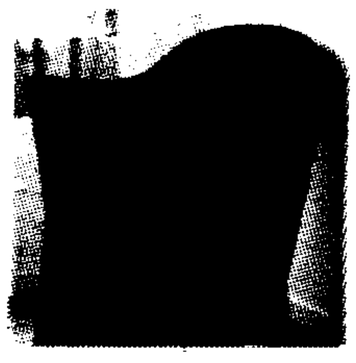
Seafood

Lobster in Ginger or Black Bean Sauce ..... (Market Price)
Baked Crap with Spring Onion or Black Bean Sauce 9.50

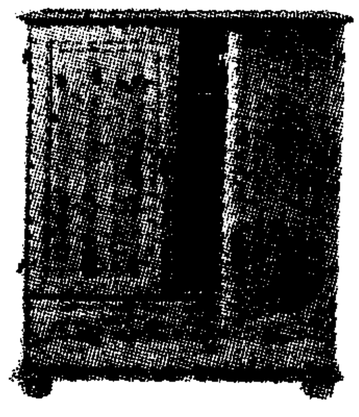
Hee's restaurant, Basingstoke

Advertisement

IKEA Furniture
as used by William Hague



The Gønnåløsehis
SEAT



The
Wønteverførmå
CABINET

The Unelec
TABLE

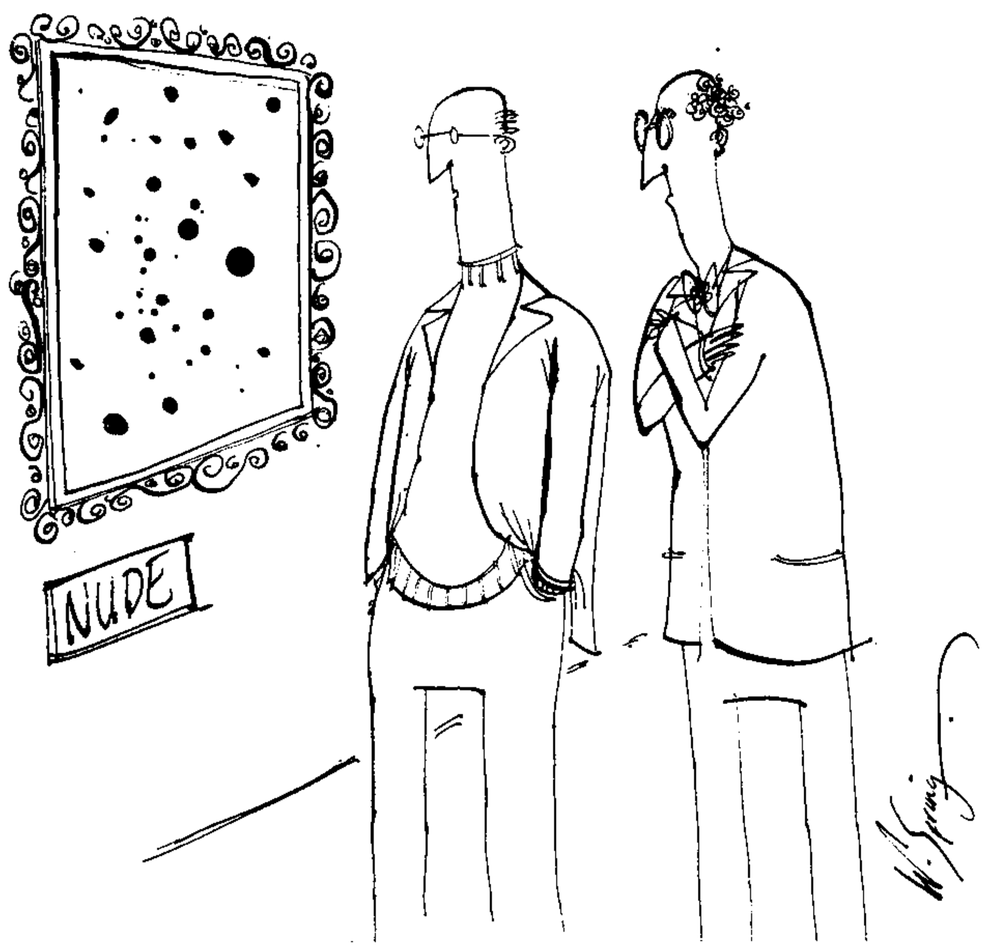
THE BBC AN APOLOGY

THE BBC would like to apologise for the disgraceful behaviour of one of its best known staff, Mr John Birt, who was caught taking cash in a seedy office in White City, shortly after the 40th Anniversary of Blue Peter. Mr Birt, by indulging in his weakness for money, has let himself and you, the viewers, down.

He has admitted to taking large quantities of dosh (of a street value of 10% above inflation) and acting in a manner unbefitting the Director General of the BBC. His actions under the influence of financial stimulants include irrational decisions, such as Producer Choice, News 24, Digital TV, and "completely losing it" (the cricket).

It is sad that such an untalented man should have provided such a bad role model to his thousands of staff who have unsurprisingly gone on strike.

Mr Birt, therefore, has no choice but to stay on and refuse to resign.



"...nice tits!"

YES — IT'S THE PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT

by Our Political Staff **Conrad Blackrod and Peter Garter-Ruck**

IN the biggest shake-up of Parliamentary procedure since records were kept, the so-called State Opening of Parliament has been totally remodelled to bring it into line with the world of the internet and the euro.

At Her Majesty the Queen's personal request, the ceremony has been cut from four and a half hours to four hours 25 minutes.

Out go all the bygone rituals and mediaeval flummeries which have made the opening of Britain's parliament the laughing stock of the world.

For example, you will no longer see the Grand Golden Spoon of the Wardrobe (Brigadier Anstruther-Wapshott) walking backwards in front of the Queen, as she is presented with the Silver Handbag containing her Government's speech. Instead he will present the speech in an ordinary briefcase, while crawling forwards on all floors.

Many of the dignitaries traditionally included in the procession from the Great Lobby to the steps of the Speaker's Chamber have now been relegated to watching the proceedings from the Distinguished Peers Gallery.

Those affected include the Warden of the Portcullis Poursuivant (Lord Ferret), the Master of the Green Carpet (Air Vice-Marshal Sir Terence Tubbie) and the Third Stick in Waiting (Lady Petunia Starborgling).

In a bid to slash the escalating cost of the ceremony, Her Majesty has given permission for the State Opening to be sponsored by Virgin Trains, who have insisted that the Queen should make the journey from Buckingham Palace by rail, via Manchester Piccadilly, Stockport and Macclesfield Parkway (buffet facilities not available).

STOP PRESS

State Opening of Parliament delayed by four hours, due to "wrong kind of trains on the track" p. 42

Exclusive to all newspapers

CHARLES AT FIFTY THOUSAND WORDS

by Our Royal Staff Phil Space

IT HARDLY seems possible. Today is the day when I have to write 50,000 words on Prince Charles. Who would have believed it? It seems like only yesterday that I wrote a piece called "Charles at 40,000 words", although it was actually the day before yesterday.

But today is a very special day — a chance to look back at all the other pieces I've written over the years and reflect on how I can turn them into another very long series of articles to appear all this week.

And what a story it has been. From an uncertain start to a racy middle period to the confidence of maturity, my pieces about Charles have grown in length over the decades until now they stand on the threshold of a new age.

And, of course, this begs several important questions. Is there a future for Prince Charles pieces? How long will they have to go on? Do people really want them? Do they serve any useful function? Should they be replaced by pieces about William? Should I be fired? *(Cont. p. 94)*

SURPRISE WINNER OF NOBEL PRIZE

by Our Peace Staff
Auberon War

OBSERVERS were stunned last night when the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to an unhatched chicken.

Shell Shock

"Surely they should have waited for the chicken to have hatched before honouring it in this way?" said one worried commentator.

Sick Yolk

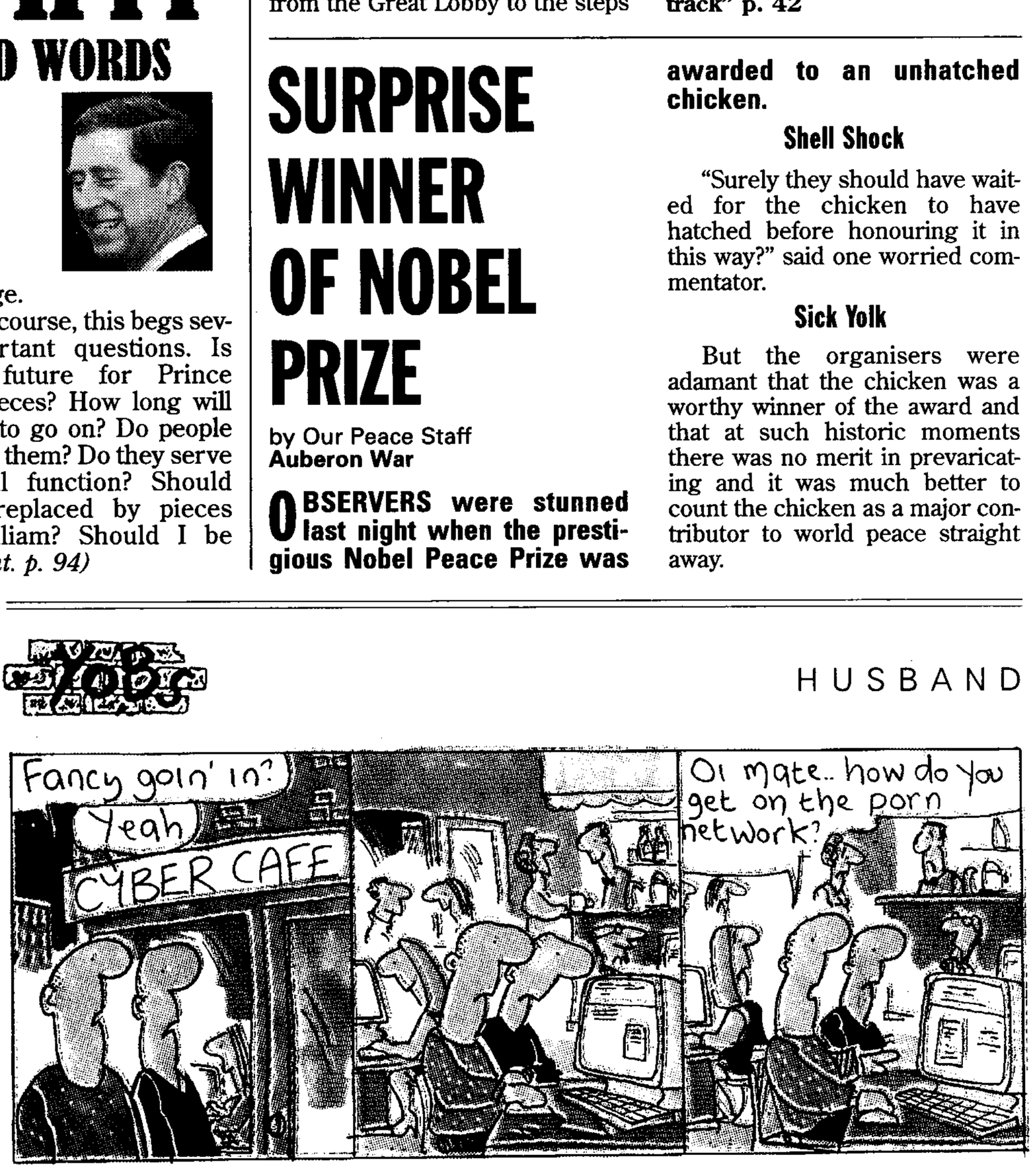
But the organisers were adamant that the chicken was a worthy winner of the award and that at such historic moments there was no merit in prevaricating and it was much better to count the chicken as a major contributor to world peace straight away.

LATE NEWS

BBC LOSE TEST COVERAGE

THE BBC yesterday suffered another demoralising blow, following an announcement that the corporation had failed in its bid to secure exclusive rights to broadcast the test card.

Said a spokesman for the BBC, "This is a sad day for everyone here, as our association with the test card goes back a very long way. For as long as I can remember, the test card has been with the BBC — hopefully we can negotiate some kind of package whereby we get to show edited highlights of the day's on-screen action."



THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30 1998

NEWS

Important Video Launch

■ Hollywood company launches new video about Titanic disaster, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Britain's Kate Winslet .....**Page 1**

Titanic hit

■ New film set to break all records as top-selling video of all time . . .**Page 2**

Queue the action

■ There were mile-long queues last night outside video shops all over Britain, as crazed teenagers and old-aged pensioners, not to mention middle-aged persons and small dogs, fought to get their hands on the award-winning new Titanic video, produced by 20th Century Fox .....**Page 3**

BUSINESS

Winner for Murdoch: Fox shares should soar to new high on record video sales, says Times City editor R. Slicker .....**Page 38**

COLUMNS

MATTHEW PARRIS
Is Leonardo the most beautiful man in the world (apart from Rupert Murdoch)? ..... **Page 28**

Eager shoppers queue to purchase the Titanic video

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
I do not have a video device, but if I did, rest assured, this is the only film I would want to see .....**Page 28**

SIMON JENKINS
Why I say Titanic video could be answer to Middle East crisis .....**Page 28**

ALAN COREN
News of Titanic sinking reaches Cricklewood — "They said it was unthinkable — but it seems to have thunk." .....**Page 28**

FASHION

Hemlines sink to new low — the Titanic look is in! .....**Page 14**

SPORT

Snooker: All the top seeds in this year's Embassy tournament will probably fail to turn up because they will be at home watching the new Titanic video .....**Page 64**

BOOKS

No one is buying any books because they are far too busy watching the hugely entertaining new video Titanic .**Page 68**

MEDICAL NOTES

Dr Thomas Uttafraud on how watching videos can improve your sex-life (particularly if they happen to feature top British stars such as Kate Winslet) .....**Page 70**

PLUS

A special souvenir pull-out newspaper giving the day's other news, free with every copy of your 108-page Timestanic.

OBITUARY

The Times .....**Page 84**

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Ship that sank in famous video (7)

DOWN
1. Scrambled it antic makes terrific video from 20th Century Fox (7)

First correct entry wins free copy of new award-winning video, to "Times Titanic Offer", PO Box 999, Virginia Street, E1.

Harry Enfield's **Bores**. Drawn by Michael Heath

"... in my day we wouldn't *dream* of talking to a policeman that way & if we did we'd get a clip round the ear we wouldn't *dream* of talking to our teachers the way they do now & if we did we'd get the cane & our father would give us the belt when we got home with a slipper he kept for that purpose we wouldn't *dream* of walking through a door without checking there wasn't an old lady following to hold it open for we wouldn't *dream* of staying in our seats on the bus if there was a lady standing we wouldn't *dream* of leaving an elderly neighbour in her house without checking every few minutes to make sure she wasn't dead we wouldn't *dream* of being disrespectful towards the Royal family I nearly met Prince Edward once & he was charming we wouldn't *dream* of getting up in the morning before we'd swept the front step in the old days we wouldn't *dream* of going to Ibiza & behaving like drunken louts I'm always very polite to foreigners when I go to Cornwall we wouldn't *dream* of dropping litter in the street if I see litter I pick it up & save it for a rainy day..."

TRIUMPH FOR COOK AS SAS ARREST WORLD'S MOST HATED WAR CRIMINAL

by Our Security Staff **Alastair Campbell**

IN THE most daring top-secret paramilitary operation ever mounted, a crack squad of SAS-style policemen (Inspector "Knacker of the Yard" Knacker) carried out a midnight swoop to arrest the world's most hated mass-murderer, General Augustus Pinochet.

Said a triumphant Knacker, "This was an immaculately co-ordinated operation, requiring months of planning and split-second timing."

"Acting on a tip-off from a Daily Mail newspaper headline *Pinochet In Britain*, I arranged to drop round to the premises of the Central London Nursing Home For Distressed Fascist Gentlemen at precisely 00 hundred hours, armed with a warrant from a Spanish judge, José Cocklecarrotos.

"When I entered the clinic, all was quiet, apart from the snoring of another Fascist gentleman in an adjacent room, a Mr Hitler from Germany."

All's Well That Allende's Well

"Within seconds, I was at the former dictator's bedside. He immediately attempted to escape, by feigning sleep.

"You don't fool me," I told him. "You're nicked."

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook was quick to praise Inspector Knacker, and himself, for the daring capture of one of the world's most wanted men.

"Let this be a warning," he said, "to mass-murderers like Slobodan Milosevic. If they ever come to England for medical treatment and have tea with Mrs Thatcher, we shall be waiting for them — so long as we have the appropriate warrant from the Spanish authorities."

General Pinochet is 106.

THE TIMES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Baroness Thatcher, OM
Sir, The arrest of my dear friend General Adolphus Pinochet is an affront to British Justice. This country has a long tradition of giving refuge to war criminals and genocidal despots. Are we going to throw all this away just to satisfy the left-wing do-gooders that make up the current government? If it had not been for Herr Pinochet many British lives would have been lost in the Falklands. Does that not count for something compared to a handful of thousands of Chilean Marxists who committed suicide in an attempt to discredit the Führer?

Surely the right course is to hand over the General to the care of nuns who with the assistance of the Salvation Army can provide a suitable environment for this elderly gentleman to live happily with his memories.
Yours sincerely,
LADY THATCHER,
c/o The Little Sisters of the Rich,
Chester Square,
London.

From Colonel Charles Moore
Sir, Herr Hitler may have been guilty of the death of millions of people, but let us not forget that he brought much needed stability to his country and provided a first class rail service unlike, I might add, the line from Hurst Green to Charing Cross, which was once again late this morning for the fifth time in a week.
Yours sincerely,
COLONEL CHARLES MOORE,
The Old Rectory,
Andrew Robertsbridge.

From The Rt. Hon. Alan Clark MP
Sir, Have we gone stark raving mad? Surely Herr Hitler deserves the endless gratitude of this nation. Without his help by losing, Britain would not have won the 2nd World War. Whatever happened to loyalty?
Yours sincerely,
THE RT. HON. ALAN CLARK,
Colditz Castle,
Kent.

From Jonathon Boyd Hunta
Sir, Whatever else Neil Hamilton may have done (and we have only his word that he is guilty), he does not deserve to be arrested at midnight, deported to Chile under the orders of the Spanish Junta and then pilloried in the notorious Guardian for the rest of his life.
Yours sincerely,
JONATHON BOYD HUNTA,
Author of "Free the Ritz One — A defence of Mr Christine Hamilton".

Mad Thatcher's Tea Party

PINOCHET IN THATCHER SHOCK

by Our Diplomatic Staff **Lady Torture**

HUMAN rights activists were appalled yesterday at the news that the world's most hated former right-wing dictator had recently been to tea with General Pinochet.

Said a spokesman, "What sort of message is General Pinochet giving to the world by taking afternoon tea with someone who should be in jail?"

He continued, "Just because Britain supported Chile in the last century, there is no need for the General to compromise his reputation by giving legitimacy to this criminal."

General Pinochet, however, was unrepentant — "I was in London and I suddenly thought I could murder a cup of tea. And then I could make some cake disappear for ever."

That Tea In Full

Coup of Tea

—✱—

Rack of Toasted Dissidents

—✱—

Grilled Opposition

—✱—

Chopped-Off Fingers

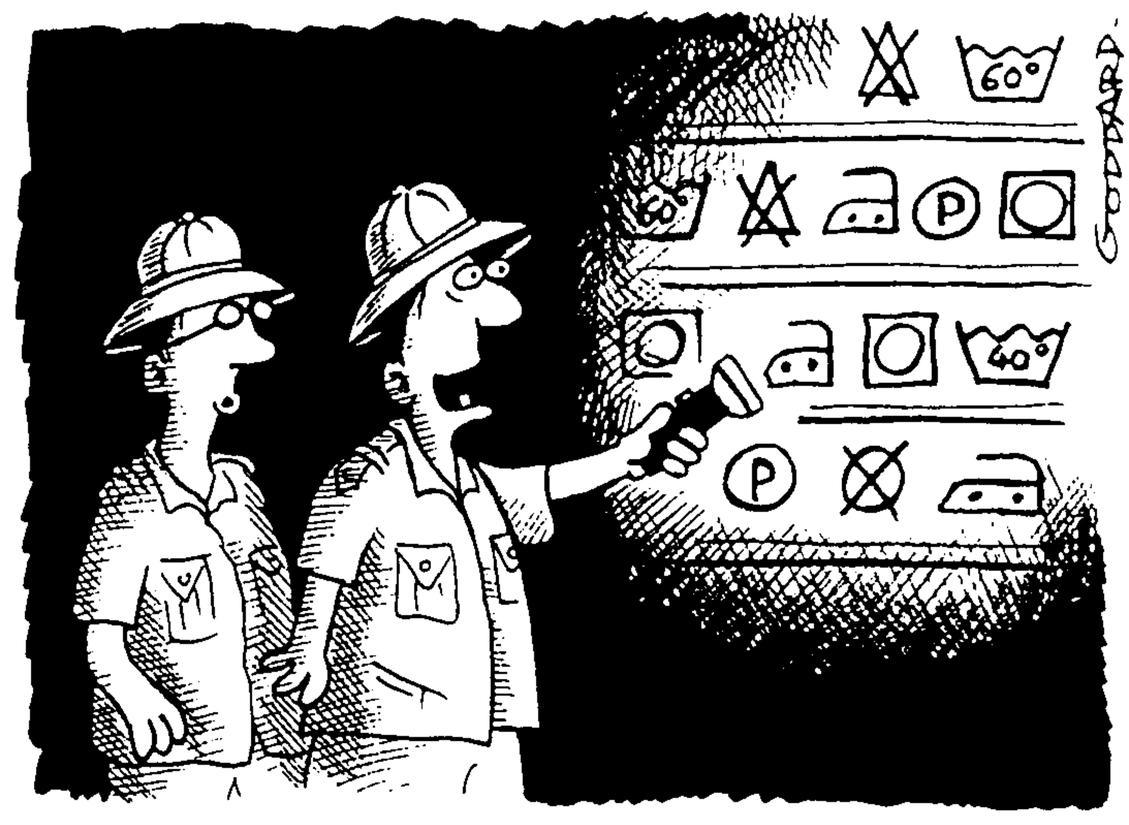
—✱—

Eggs (Beaten To Death)

—✱—

Mrs Teacake

(That's enough Menu. Ed.)



"Whoever they were, they had an advanced knowledge of fabric care"

DIARY

David Bailey: Karl, what do you look for in a model?

Karl Lagerfeld: I look for someone who can walk. They have to be able to walk. I insist on it for all my shows. You have a model who cannot walk and what happens? She just stands and stands and stands. Eventually, we have to move her off, maybe with a fork-lift. So I never use her again. But Linda Evangelista I love. No one can walk like Linda Evangelista. She walks perfect.

Bailey: How does she walk, Karl?

Lagerfeld: First one leg, then the other, then the first one again. And so on, until she gets to where I want her to go. Then she stops. Then she repeats process, but in reverse.

Bailey: Do supermodels have to be intelligent?

Lagerfeld: Highly intelligent. To be photographed, you have to know at all times where your eyes are, where your nose is, where your hair is. You have to know everything. Jerry Hall, she is highly intelligent. She knows where her eyes are, but she also knows where her legs are. She can move her eyes and her legs at the same time. This is sophisticated. And a model must develop a rapport with the photographer. Without rapport, there is nothing. Only a photograph.

David Bailey: You got a nice pair legs there, love.

Kate Moss: Bailey!

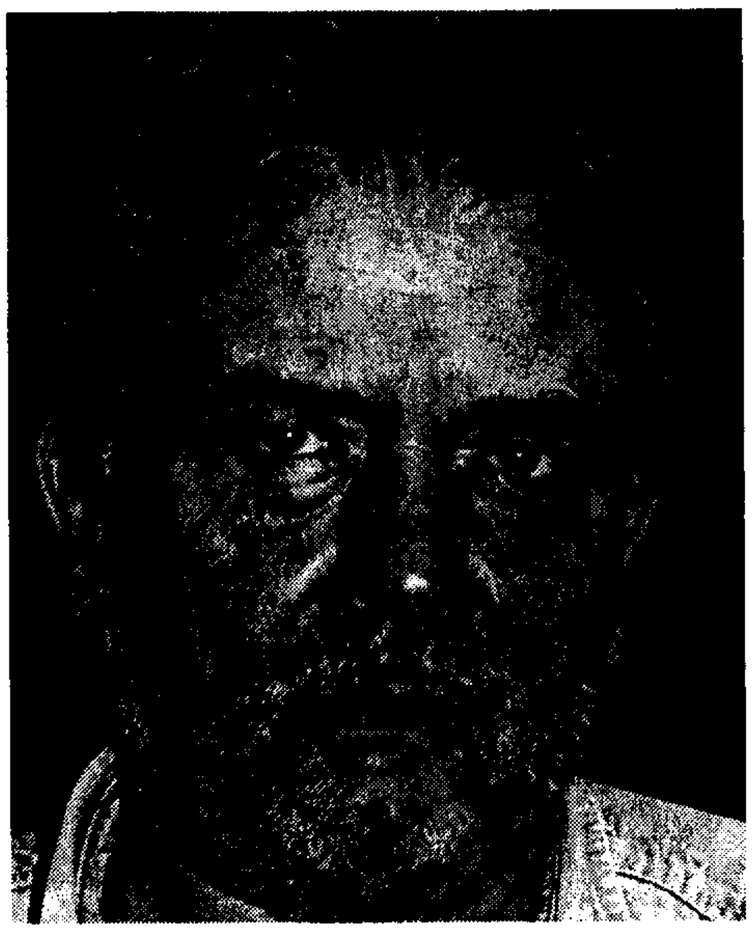
Bailey: Seersly. An I'm an expert, love, no kiddin. So, Kate, wossa worst thing's ever happened to you?

Kate: It totally did my head in. I was, like, "Hey, this has totally did my head in, kind of thing." It was like a totally did-your-head-in kind of experience. Talk about doin' your head in!

Bailey: So whappened, love?

Kate: I was, like, "I want a cuppa tea, yeah? And I poured the water in, right?" Then I was like, "Hey, this tea tastes kinda watery, right?" Then I looked into the cup, and like I'd forgotten to put the tea-bag in, yeah? It was the forgotten-to-put-the-tea-bag-in-the-cup-thing. I'd heard of it happening to other people but I never thought it'd happen to me. Really did my head in.

David Bailey: Vivienne, who do you have in mind when you design?



DAVID BAILEY'S WORLD OF FASHION

Vivienne Westwood: For my new collection, Ludwig Wittgenstein. All layers and layers of tulle with gorgeous low-slung bodices with brocade all over, just like his philosophy. I think therefore I am. Or is it I am not? I must look it up. Depends on your mood, I suppose. You don't pronounce the "W", you know. It's really Vittgenstein. And I've been heavily influenced by that, too. My new collection comes out under the name Wivienne Vestwood.

David Bailey: You're a beautiful bird, no mistake. With legs like that, you could've been a model, love. Tell me all about yourself, darlin'.

Penelope Tree: My name's Penelope. I was a model. In fact, I was married to you for five years.

David Bailey: Blimey! Strike me down with a feather! Small world!

David Bailey: Naomi, you're gorgeous. You ever been late for an assignment?

Naomi Campbell: Me? As a black woman, I always arrive early. If I say I'll be there at 10am on Wednesday, I'll be there at 9.45am on Thursday, no worries.

Bailey: Do you ever get bitchy with other models, love?

Naomi: As a black woman, I've never been bitchy. I try to help others. If I'm wearing a dress they want to wear, and they've got a dress I want to wear I'll always try and switch with them. Particularly if they're shit.

Bailey: What about Nelson Mandela?

Naomi: He's not bitchy. He doesn't slag you off like some of the others, no way. Like, before I went on stage with him, he didn't start pinching me or saying catty things or trying to ladder my tights with his nails. No way. The guy's like a saint. And I treated him with respect. I've been very influenced by him. He's like the greatest supermodel of them all, and I respect that.

Bailey: Why are you so special? Because you are, and I'm an expert.

Naomi: I try to be honest with myself. When I look in the mirror, I say, "Naomi, you're beautiful, you're intelligent, you're punctual, you're generous, you're popular and you don't take no shit from anyone so those other fuckers can go fuck themselves." You really have to be honest with yourself in this business, David.

David Bailey: Jean-Paul Mchaki, you're one of the all-time great designers. How important is the model when it comes to showing your clothes?

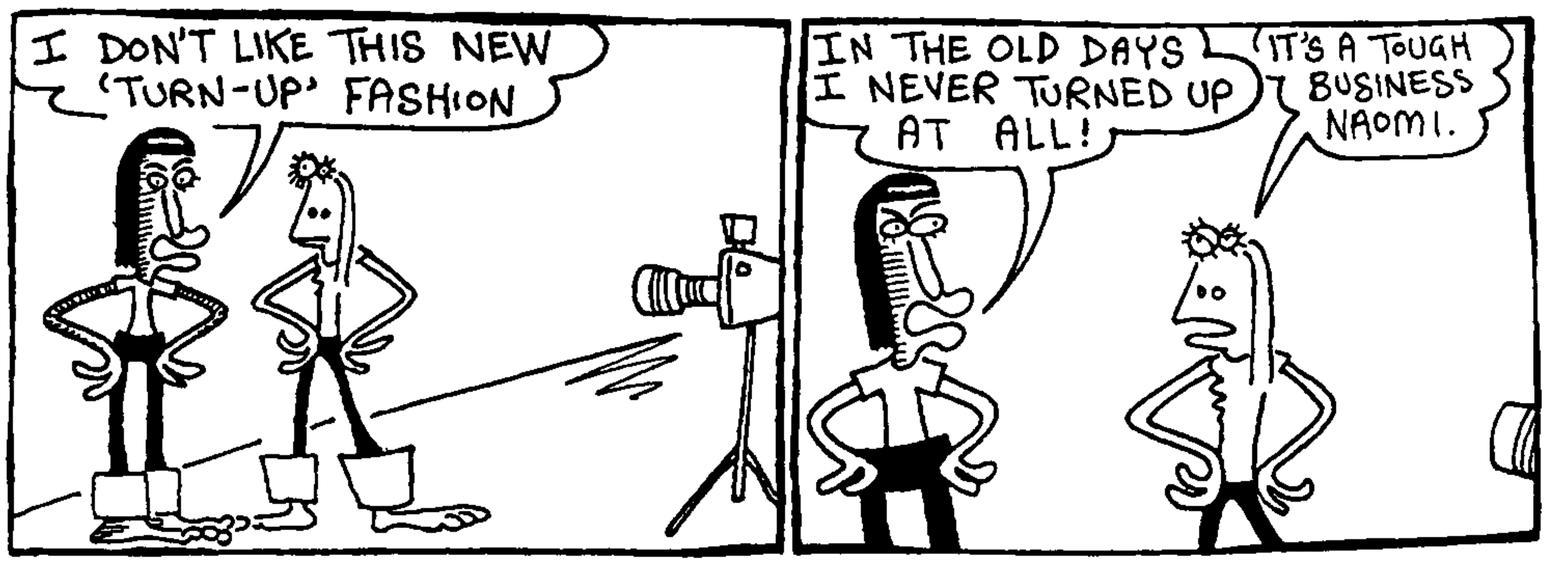
Jean-Paul Mchaki: Very important. Like yesterday, I had this truly beautiful long pink dress, but it was too full in the bust for Kate, so I pin it back. But it still not look too good, so I take out my scissors and transform it into a long skirt. All very nice, but Kate is just a bit too short, so we turn it into a mini-skirt. This would be fine — beautiful, gorgeous — but Kate is so unhappy with that length, and the model she must be happy, so I take out my scissors. *Voila!* We have the most amazing fantastic thin pink belt, so neat, so sexy, so feminine!

David Bailey: Anna, you're now the editor of American *Vogue*. Who was your major influence?

Anna Wintour: Diana Vreeland. She was so uncompromising. Just before she died, she went overboard for yellow. Everything had to be yellow. Yellow cushions, yellow sofas, yellow tables, yellow dresses, yellow hats, walls all yellow, paintings all yellow, books all yellow, carpets all yellow. In the end, she died of jaundice. They didn't find her body for three weeks.

SUPERMODELS

KERBER



Gascoigne's troubled career reached breaking point 10 days ago after a four-day drinking binge in Dublin led him to the drink of suicide.

Sunday Mirror

Hotel Silver Swan
& Cygnet Restaurant
Hyde Bridge, Sligo
require
SIOUX CHEF
(male/female)
Must have 4/5 years experience.
Apply in writing with current C.V. to
THE MANAGER.

Sligo Champion

Literary Review

French Lessons

A Season In Hell
Marilyn French
(Virago, £15.99)

RADIATION treatments and chemotherapy, a heart attack, brain damage, and kidney stones have had no effect whatsoever on the prose style of Marilyn French.

French was told she would not recover from cancer of the oesophagus. She lay in a coma for 12 days, she was punctured with IV needles until the nurses could no longer find a vein, yet she has indomitably retained the characteristic that has made her a feminist icon the world over: the self-importance to present even the most banal details of her life as deeply relevant.

French tells us about not only the medical and administrative procedures of New York hospitals but her bowel movements, her dreams, what she eats (hummus, apple sauce, papaya), what she doesn't (bread), and where it comes from (on one occasion her memory fails her, and she is forced to state that a takeaway meal was "probably from Rainbow Chicken").

We are also given postcards from her holiday ("Our cabin was a bit primitive but faced the gorgeous lake. Jamie and Barbara had fun in a pedal boat") and reassured about her misplaced teddy bear ("My nurse tagged it and held it for me").

French's female readers must think that, if this sort of thing is worth preserving between hard covers, then any and all trivia about their own lives must be worth hearing. Ironically, therefore, French's feminist legacy has been to encourage the old stereotype of woman as nattering nitwit.

She, however, probably thinks she is helping women overcome the repression of feeling that afflicts those born late in the century. "People who were exposed to the idea of Freud," she writes, "have a greater degree of... self-consciousness than those who were not. If you have aged relatives or friends, you perhaps have noted how direct and unselfconscious their behaviour is." Aged Ps, however, are likely to have had more exposure to the ideas of Freud than many of the young, whom contemporary education has left untouched by any ideas whatsoever. Then again, those old people may simply have Alzheimer's.

Despite her claims to a "second brain, the one that is always conscious of what the first one is doing", French's double dome has remained insensible to the implications of her writing. Reporting her trip to a gallery showing work by "Lucien" Freud, for instance, she proclaims: "I am glad Jamie was willing to accompany me, despite her profound dislike for the artist. I respect my daughter's convictions and would normally not have asked her to go to a Freud exhibit." We hear nothing, though, about the paintings, since French's only purpose in mentioning the greatest living painter is to illustrate her own graciousness and integrity.

Likewise, though *A Season in Hell* is littered with tributes — Gloria Steinem is "a saint", a newscaster friend is "one of the most beloved women in the city", Fay Weldon is "a dear woman with whom I have no significant differences" — the absence of any description, any evocative detail, highlights French's vanity. I've given my stamp of approval, she says: what more do you need to know?

Despite academic posts and honours, ceaseless speaking engagements and considerable commercial success (at a particularly black moment, she must trade down from a Porsche to a Lexus), French is saddened by the "obtuseness" shown by critics of her novels: "Reviewers, female or male, rarely treat fiction by women seriously." One could hardly have a lower opinion of one's readers than to assume they will believe this, but, assuming their forgetfulness is as great as their naiveté, she adds, a few sentences later: "That most women's writing is not serious is a prejudice shared by female and male reviewers."

Hard to see, though, how these reviewers' prejudice will be altered by French's description of her feminist "coven". The women discuss their problems, and "after that comes the magical part of the evening, as we surround the seeker and call down upon her head whatever she needs of spirit, courage, and clarity to accomplish her desire."

One of these enchanted evenings took place in a restaurant where "we held a coven meeting, complete with eagle feathers, light-up plastic wand, crystals, and incantations. The other diners paid us not the slightest heed; as far as we noticed, not a single head turned. New York is indeed wonderful."

A Lady Reader

Books & Bookmen

■ **DESPITE the many unsavoury revelations in Tom Bower's newly released unauthorised biography of Mohamed Fayed, the Egyptian owner of Harrods has not lost his famous sense of humour.**

Indeed Bower's publisher, Richard Charkin at Macmillan, received a jolly telephone message via Fayed's secretary when the book was officially launched last week.

"Don't bother biking the book over," it said. "You can keep it in the toilet and use it as toilet paper." Fuggin' funny, no?

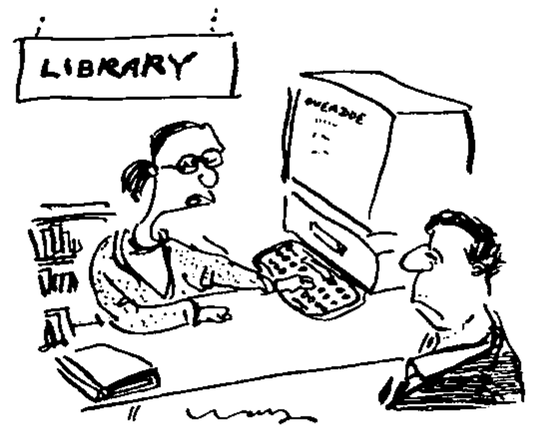
Meanwhile at Harrods the in-store Waterstone's is for some reason *not* stocking the book and refers would-be purchasers to the chain's Brompton Road branch. There, a spokesperson confirmed the book *would* be on sale, adding: "We've had a lot of inquiries from Harrods."

■ SETTLING old scores, part 94. Philip Kerr's new novel *The Second Angel* is the first since his departure from Random House, where he was published under the Hutchinson imprint, to the welcoming arms of Orion.

A futuristic romp set in a world where 80 percent of the populace suffers from a virus that requires a blood transfusion, and healthy blood sells at nearly $2m a litre, Kerr's opus features a security systems designer named Dallas who works for a company named Terotech.

The institution's sinister director, whom Dallas loathes, is a man named Simon King — hook-nosed, grey-bearded and with eyes "so noticeably hooded that he appeared to be almost blind". In addition, King is described as "arrogant, capricious and cruel". He lives up to this description by attempting to get his employee terminated by the head of office security.

By a curious coincidence the real-life Simon King happens to be



"You've had ORGANIZED LIVING by DAWNA WALTER out for over six months now"

a senior Random House executive with responsibility for the Hutchinson imprint. What can Mr Kerr have been thinking of?

■ *CHRIS PATTEN was in Australia recently to promote his book of the TV programme* East and West.

Doing the rounds of radio talk shows he was heard to proclaim that he was very glad that the Dirty Digger had interceded on behalf of China to drop his book from the HarperCollins list.

Without this, he said, "I probably wouldn't have sold nearly as many."

■ MORE news of Aspire Publishing and *Trial by Conspiracy*, Jonathan Boyd Hunt's apologia for Neil Hamilton, disgraced former Tory MP. According to Aspire Publishing (*Eye* 961, Letters), their company is entirely separate from GreeNZone, publisher of Boyd Hunt's book.

The exact relationship between the two is that GreeNZone was established in New Zealand in January by Stuart Kay. Aspire is a division of the Exeter-based Xcentrex Ltd, from which Kay resigned as a director in August 1997.

Kay however continues to own the vast majority of Xcentrex, holding 999 of the 1,000 ordinary shares. The single remaining share is owned by the company's current managing director, Patricia Kay, wife of a certain Stuart Kay. In effect they are the same outfit.

One of GreeNZone's undisputed achievements is to have libelled Alan Rusbridger, editor of the *Guardian*, which drove the cash-for-questions affair. In a letter to the paper, James Bartholomew of GreeNZone states: "As Mr Rusbridger and others within his inner circle are proven liars, no value attaches either to his demolition job on the book or his pretension to lily-white journalistic standards."

Whether the fuss will generate sales of *Trial by Conspiracy* remains to be seen, although the book does have one supporter — er, Neil Hamilton. With his unlovely wife Christine, he went to debate privacy at Durham university recently and started flogging off a pile of the books. In the fastest remainder in history *Trial by Conspiracy* has already had a fiver knocked off the published price. The latest Aspire press bulletin reveals that "all 150 Members of Parliament [*sic*] have been sent a copy of *Trial by Conspiracy*". So, if nothing else, that's 150 unsold copies spoken for.

Bookworm

footnotes

Underneath the Archer

LORD ARCHER AND SOUP

GLAMOROUS and substantial has been the publicity showered on Peter Gwyther, the art dealer lucky enough to be selling Lord Archer's Warhols in a fashionable Mayfair gallery.

Hacks from the art world who inquire about Gwyther's past are told of his successful background in the art world around Cambridge. They are probably referring to Gwyther's launch 10 years ago of a new gallery called Ganz.

The launch was made possible by generous advances from a tour operator called Philip Hughes and an ambitious investor called David Hughes-Smith, whose father was chief executive of the stock exchange. The two men with the money were inclined to leave the buying of stock to the expert Gwyther — until they noticed that rather a lot of cheques he was signing were directed to the immediate needs of, er, Peter Gwyther and his family rather than to the long-term requirements of the business.

The plug was pulled on the unhappy gallery — but not before both investors had lost heavily. Philip Hughes reckons ruefully he was down about £25,000 on the deal.

On marched Gwyther to the Trumpington gallery, where he took charge of selling prints bought cheap from the Waddington Fine Art company. This venture also foundered when the owners of the gallery found out that Gwyther's salary was being paid at a rate about 20 times what they thought had been agreed.

On went Gwyther to help with yet another Cambridge gallery — on the Lensfield Road. After two years of almost uninterrupted problems caused by his habit of selling pieces on his own account, he was sacked. The luckless founders of the gallery, who had lost tens of thousands of pounds, set up another company to try to salvage something from the debris. The name of the new company, JAPAW, referred obliquely to Peter Gwyther and a business associate whose first name was John. JAPAW stood for "John And Peter Are Wankers".

By this time, Gwyther was being pursued by debtors all over Cambridgeshire. They caught up with him at last, and in January 1995 at Cambridge county court he was declared bankrupt for not paying his accountants' fees. He was discharged from bankruptcy earlier this year. All in all Gwyther's artistic and entrepreneurial background fits him admirably for a new life in business with Jeffrey Archer.

PS: A long time ago Archer had a Mayfair art gallery of his own. The Archer Gallery was opened in October 1969 with a glittering launch very similar to this month's Warhol show (see *Eye* 209). The champagne flowed and the guest of honour was the Tory leader, Edward Heath. Tory MP Geoffrey Rippon, who later became a cabinet minister, was a director. The gallery specialised in modern art. It lost about £1,800 a month until Archer flogged it off a year later. "It was one of my rare failures," he explained.

PURCHASE: THE MAN WHO CAN'T BE BOUGHT

KEN PURCHASE MP

IT WAS bad luck for that old Eye favourite Omar Al Hassan and his Gulf Centre for Strategic Studies that, in the week of another mighty coup with British MPs, a huge, unflattering profile of him was circulating in influential circles.

The profile, written in Kuwait, carries the intriguing title THE CHAMELEON OF THE ARABIAN GULF and a long introduction which includes the warning: "The rope of lying is short and craftiness only entangles the people who engage in it." The Arabic text is backed up by several appendices in English, including articles from the *Eye* about the many undeclared £500-a-month payments which Al Hassan made to William Powell, former Tory MP for Corby.

Fascinating confidential documents are attached, including a letter on 3 July 1995 from a senior House of Commons official to the sergeant-at-arms Sir Alan Urwick. The letter describes Omar Al Hassan as "a crook" who was "dismissed from a post with the Arab League for misappropriation of funds" (the details of this dismissal are set out in another document).

OMAR PAPA: The indictment

"I am surprised," wrote the official, "that al-Hassan is permitted to roam about the House of Commons and would recommend that this be stopped." Sir Alan replied that he was about to retire and would hand the matter to his successor Peter Jennings. He added: "Since receiving your letter I have had a very full account of exactly what happened in the Pugin Room from Emma Nicholson [then MP for Devon West and Torridge], and it is quite clear that Mr Al Hassan's account of the incident bore little relation to reality." (Emma Nicholson's story of how she had Al Hassan thrown out of the Commons is also attached).

Omar Al Hassan, however, is still roaming the Commons recruiting MPs for freebies to the Middle East. His triumph this month has been a giant freebie to Bahrain, including four nights in a luxury hotel, all expenses paid, for no fewer than eight MPs. Bahrain of course has no MPs: the island's elected parliament was dissolved by order of the amir in 1975, and the country is now ruled ruthlessly by the amir's family. The Red Cross reported recently that the number of political prisoners held without trial have risen in the last year from 1,426 to 2,111. They are in 23 detention centres where Amnesty International reports systematic torture.

The MPs who travelled with Mr Al Hassan (and Bahrain's ambassador to London, who is the brother of the Bahraini foreign minister) were: Nigel Evans (Tory, Ribble Valley); Nigel Jones (Lib Dem, Cheltenham); and six representatives of "new" Labour: Dan Morris (Wansdyke); Ashok Kumar (Middlesbrough South and Cleveland East); Lawrence Cunliffe (Leigh); Claire Ward (Watford); Lindsay Hoyle (Chorley); and the man who helped Omar Al Hassan put the freebie together, Ken Purchase (Wolverhampton North East); parliamentary private secretary to Robin Cook, foreign secretary.

Mr Purchase tells the *Eye*: "As far as the Middle East is concerned Bahrain is a beacon, a flaming beacon." There is, he thinks, "not much prospect of a proper democratic parliament there. In 1939, we suspended elections — we were at war. They are virtually at war in Bahrain."

He was, he said, worried about the Amnesty reports. "I was wanting to go to a prison," he said. "In the end their civil service wouldn't let us go to one — on the basis that if a foreign politician came to Britain and asked to see a prison, we'd say `push off'. That's probably true."

Mr Purchase says he's been in politics for 30 years and "I keep my nose clean." He vehemently denied a report in the *Eye* last October that he had had the usual Rolex watch from the amir after another visit to Bahrain. He agreed he had declared a "gift of jewellery". Asked what jewellery, he replied: "I'm not going to tell you, and I'll tell you why. Because I don't bloody want you to know."

Pig in a simulated poke

POLICE sergeant Alan Gordon, Hampshire representative of the Police Federation, is not impressed by the wave of chief constables' confessions to racism and sexism in the force.

In a forthright speech to his federation's annual meeting this month Sgt Gordon announced: "Our reputation and integrity continue to be dragged through the gutter. We do not suffer with corruption in this force. We do not suffer racism in this force."

The speech was reported on page 3 of the 16 October edition of the *Southern Echo* — pages 1 and 2 being taken up with a story headed *POLICE PAY PRICE OF SEX BULLIES*. Former WPC Lesley Evans had been paid an undisclosed six-figure sum by Hants police for three years of systematic harassment by her CID colleagues. One officer had pinned her up against a filing cabinet and simulated sex "like a rutting pig". Another had rubbed his face in her hair pleading "let me sexually harass you". No action was taken against any of her assailants.

As for racism, the sergeant does not seem to have boned up on his recent *Private Eyes*. If he looks at the issue of 21 August, he will see the story of Errol Brown, who alleged he was kicked in the face and racially abused by a Hampshire police officer after his car was stopped for going 8mph over the speed limit. The officer who did the kicking and abusing is still serving — at Basingstoke. Another officer who told the truth about the incident in court has been transferred.

BUS PENSIONS: Another pathetic excuse will be along shortly

THE answer to an elementary question about the great busworkers' pension robbery which the last *Eye* could not extract from the department of environment, transport and the regions (DETR) was finally conceded to Labour MP Andrew Mackinlay on the first day parliament reassembled.

The *Eye* was perplexed by a grandiloquent passage in the Labour party conference speech of John Prescott, deputy prime minister and secretary of state at DETR. Proclaimed Prescott: "The Tories raided the pension fund and refused to recognise the pensioners' claim to millions of pounds of surpluses. I have instructed our lawyers to stop the legal fancy dancing. I have told them to open discussions with the pensions trustees to achieve a just out-of-court settlement as quickly as possible in the coming months and end this shameful delay."

ROSIE WINTERTON MP & FRIEND

The *Eye* asked the DETR how much had been spent on this "legal fancy dancing" since Labour came to office last year. Apart from a promise that the "DPM" (Prescott) would ring us personally at a given time on Friday 9 October, which he didn't, there was no answer.

Ten days later Glenda Jackson, transport minister, disclosed that the legal costs of the case so far are £546,000. Most of this has gone to the expensive lawyers hired by the official solicitor, who runs the trustee company for the 40,000 pensioners of the former National Bus Company. Most of this "expensive fancy dancing", otherwise known as "shameful delay", has been taking place *since* Prescott and Jackson came to office in May last year.

The taxpayer is paying out these vast sums for one government body (official solicitor) to sue another (DETR) on a point of law which was decided two years ago. In 1996 the pensions ombudsman, who was set up to make it easier for people to resolve pension disputes without expensive lawyers, ruled that the National Bus pension surplus of £168m had been taken illegally by the government and should be handed back at once to the pensioners.

Instead of giving it back, Tory and Labour governments indulged in two years' legal fancy dancing and shameful delay at the expense of the taxpayer: two years in which thousands of the pensioners entitled to the extra money have died.

On 22 October, replying to a question from Rosie Winterton, Labour MP for Doncaster Central and former head of John Prescott's private office, Glenda Jackson answered the other question put to her department the previous week by the *Eye*: why didn't the government pay the money straight to the pensioners?

"The government," she said, "received strong legal advice that it should lodge its own response with the court before opening discussions on an out of court settlement." Now that the "response" had been so expensively "lodged", ministers feel free to negotiate an out-of-court settlement. In other words, the government had received "strong advice" from expensive lawyers that the matter which had already been decided so cheaply and expertly by the ombudsman should be kicked around for another 18 months by, er, expensive lawyers before the elected ministers could contemplate settling the matter out of court. And the ministers meekly complied.

The man who fought singlehandedly for 10 years for his fellow pensioners and, on his own, took the case to the ombudsman and won it, is former Blackpool bus driver Frank Wheeler, 71. The official solicitor obstinately refuses to make him a director of the pension fund trustee company. Instead, he appointed another former busman, Andrew Lister.

Then, at public expense, he went to the chancery division to add two more former busmen to his trustee company board: Trevor Harrod and John Friend. None of these three had anything to do with the pensioners' battle before they read about Frank Wheeler's triumph in 1996. All come from the south of England, while most of the pensioners are in the north. Lister and Howard are members of the RMT, a rail and seafarers' union which claims less than 15 percent of the bus pensioners. Friend, who is in the T&G — the busmen's main union — was not a busman, but a fitter. The official solicitor, the ministry and even the Transport and General Workers' Union are united in their determination to exclude Frank Wheeler from any part in putting right the monstrous government theft which he uncovered.

CLEARED: Sheri Laizer

Kurds and way out of order 2

THE curious story of Scotland Yard's special branch raid on a community centre for exiled Kurds in north London (*Eye* 954) has come to a predictable end.

The raid took place 11 months ago by a large squad who said they were investigating terrorism. Lists of members and five computers were seized. The work of the centre, which helps 6,000 Kurds in London, was set back for months.

The worst blow came from the national lotteries charities board which, after hearing police reports, stopped its £120,000 grant for teaching languages and computer studies. Two teachers had to be stood down as a result of this brave decision. Throughout, the centre's coordinator Sheri Laizer insisted that the centre had nothing to do with terrorism or any other criminal activity. No one was arrested.

On 21 October the centre got a letter from DI C. Graham, of special branch. "Police will not be bringing any criminal proceedings in connection with this matter."

No compensation. No apology. Instead DI Graham fired off a letter to the charities commissioners questionning the right of the centre to register as a charity. The lotteries charities board tells the *Eye* that the £120,000 grant to the centre cannot be renewed until the matters raised in the Scotland Yard letter have been sorted out.

High Principals

SISTER ACT

AS THEY find it more and more difficult to balance their budgets, further education colleges all over the country are developing their buildings into flats and selling them off.

Shena Simon College in central Manchester is engaged in a multi-million project along these lines, and has set up a couple of property companies to oversee it. College senior manager Tim Benson is a director of both companies, and was a key member of the steering group which selected the contractor.

Four companies tendered. Mr Benson says that "by far the lowest tender" came from Miller Homes, a subsidiary of the large Miller building combine which is based in Scotland. The steering group, including Mr Benson, promptly selected Miller's. Mr Benson confirmed that his sister, Deborah Benson, is a director of Millers. He went on:

"I hasten to add that this is a coincidental thing. Wimpeys pulled out and our external adviser came up with Millers. At the time I declared a conflict of interest because my sister worked for Millers albeit at a very far distance, ie she works in the Scottish region. She has had and would have had nothing to do with this deal whatsoever. I made my declaration in the normal way to the clerk of the governors. I think you've been approached by some mischief-makers, to be honest."

Asked if it might have been better to stand down from the steering group which selected his sister's company, he said: "I'm not prepared to comment. I can assure you the whole thing was guided throughout with Eversheds, the college solicitors, to ensure that everything was totally in propriety and handled in a very straightforward and open manner."

TAPPING THE TAXPAYER

IRRITATED by the number of people who can't pay their water bills, and nervous about cutting them off, the water companies have come up with an ingenious plan to get help from an unusual source: the taxpayer.

The plan works like this. Set up an independent charitable trust whose main aim is to help poor people pay their water bills. Make a donation to the charity. Get the charity to "recoup" a third of the donation from the Inland Revenue. Hey presto! Most of the donation (and the tax rebate) comes back to the water companies in water bills which might not otherwise have been paid.

The pioneer of this scheme among the big water companies is Anglian Water, which in 1996 set up the Anglian Water Trust Fund. Susan Jordan, director of the fund, assures the *Eye* that she and all the trustees and staff of the fund are "entirely independent" of Anglian Water. The only part of the fund which is not independent is the money, all of which comes from Anglian Water.

Each year Anglian Water shells out £1.5m to the fund, which duly claims from the Inland Revenue the £500,000 which the water company would have paid in tax on the money. Of the £3.5m spent by the trust fund since it was set up, £2m has gone back to Anglian Water in paid water bills. Susan Jordan explains that water bills are a priority because "water is fundamental to life". She stresses the complete independence of her trust and the fact that some of the money goes to help the poor in other ways.

The Anglian Water scheme has excited other water companies. The biggest of them, Severn Trent, has set up a very similar trust fund. So has Yorkshire Water. What company after all could resist the opportunity to turn a bad debt into a charity and get the Inland Revenue to help pay the bills?

You can write to Paul Foot at Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG, or leave a message for him on 0171 287 3183

In the City

FAST running out of friends and ever more enmeshed in a web of lies and fantasies of his own making, the phoney pharaoh Mohamed Fayed is also feeling the heat from a seriously bad investment which has so far cost him more than £40m.

In March 1997 the Fayed master company Harrods Holdings acquired some 46m shares — a 28 percent stake — in Alpha Airports from a Fayed offshore company, Cylena SA, for £1 plus assumption of its borrowings of £58.3m used to acquire the Alpha stake. Fayed, via Cylena, had bought most of the Alpha shares for £52m from Forte/Granada in November 1996.

Why the shares had not been bought directly by Harrods, controlled by Fayed and his family, was not explained — like much of Fayed's financial dealings.

Alpha, spun out of Forte in 1994, provides catering, duty-free and baggage handling services. The synergy with Harrods was fairly slim — it has duty free outlets and runs an executive jet handling operation at Heathrow. But then Fayed, like any pharaoh, needs an empire, not just a shop.

The Alpha share price had already slipped by the time Harrods took the shares off Cylena. Its average purchase price was 125p. By February last year the shares were down to 106p.

As the shares had all been bought on borrowed money — so much for the Fayed billions — this would have created a problemette for the phoney pharaoh. As with mortgages, banks may fund all of a share purchase secured on the shares but in the event that the share price falls then they make a "margin call" — requiring the borrower to put up their own funds to cover the shortfall in the bank's security.

By the time of the sale to Harrods the bank was already exposed to the tune of £9m on a loan of £58.3m and would no doubt have been on Fayed's case as the probable guarantor of the Cylena loan. So the loan was simply switched into the Harrods group — which has a group borrowing facility of £350m secured on the Knightsbridge store and the other assets. This way Fayed personally was off the hook.

What happened was that Harrods acquired Cylena, the original £58m bank loan was repaid (no doubt from the group facilities) and Cylena, its purpose served, was liquidated. The inter-group loan to Cylena to repay its loan was matched by Cylena taking an interest-free note for the Alpha shares.

By the time Harrods Holdings finalised its next accounts for the year to January 1998, the Alpha stake was still looking sickly with the share price 75p. However, no provision was made for the drop in value because it was held that the longterm realisable value equalled the cost price. But since then the Alpha situation has become dire after the collapse of profits at the half-year stage and warnings of worse to come made earlier this month.

The shares are now down to 34p at which level Harrods is showing a £42.2m loss on its holding which is now worth only £16m. Just how Harrods' banks are viewing this situation can only be guessed. But it may be difficult for Harrods to avoid providing for some of the loss in this year's accounts if the Alpha situation remains unchanged.

Meanwhile Fayed can only be relieved that he passed the Alpha parcel on to his bankers, leaving them with the headache.

However, he has even more worrying matters on his mind: the impact the "break-in at his hated rival Tiny" Rowland's Harrods safe deposit box may have on his still pending British citizenship application. The Rowland case, in the high court this week and to run a further two, is unlikely to help his cause, despite Fayed's efforts to deny any responsibility.

The pharaoh appears to be relying on the Thomas à Becket defence: the December 1995 break-in was all the fault of over-enthusiastic underlings. But that may require his trusted fixer John Macnamara and maybe others to take the fall. How else to explain how the Rowland box was opened so many times, a duplicate key made, the contents copied and certain items passed to then Fayed ally turned critic Tom Bower? With publication of Bower's hostile biography no wonder Fayed and Macnamara are so keen to put him in the frame by admitting that he was given material taken from the box.

The Fayed camp will also seek to incriminate former Harrods security boss Bob Loftus who blew the whistle on the break-in to Rowland after he was sacked. But it will still be hard for Fayed to escape blame.

And that — along with the "Queen killed Di" fantasy, plus being a serial fondler of employees and a corrupter of MPs, may finally make up the home secretary's mind. Should there be any lingering doubts? No decision, however, may be announced before early next year.

The expectation is that Young and possibly one or two others will be charged in the near future.

Eye 960 2 October '98

The Serious Fraud Office said Mr Young had been charged along with three other men and released on conditional bail to appear at the City of London Magistrates' Court on November 10.

The Times 20 October '98

THE word among the somewhat chastened former masters of the universe is that the current global turmoil in the world's markets has indeed been costly for Tottenham fancier Joe Lewis, the secretive Bahamas-based trader.

The suggestion is that Lewis may have dropped up to $1bn. If true, no joke even for a man supposed to have three. That would still be a lot less than the hits taken by rival players such as George Soros and Julian Robertson. However, how will the world ever know given the secrecy that surrounds Lewis's operations?

ANOTHER Spurs fan, Tony Berry of Blue Arrow fame, has run into a little local difficulty on his business comeback. Candy Group, a confectionary company whose board he joined last year, has gone

Middle-management Caesar

bust owing more than £650,000.

Berry and his wife Marion became directors of the former JB Confectionary in September 1997. However, last July the directors decided the company was insolvent and voted for liquidation. The company's assets were estimated to realise only £22,000 — less than what was owed in tax and VAT. Trade creditors were owed another £430,000.

They and Candy's former owners, the Bacon family, are said to be less than impressed by Berry's performance. Especially as it appears the business has been sold off to a new company.

No doubt the Department of Timidity & Inaction, which cocked up a bid to have Berry disqualified as a director after he was heavily criticised by the DTI inspectors' report into Blue Arrow, will take note.

WHILE the bean counters' professional regulator, the Joint Disciplinary Scheme, is targeting Coopers & Lybrand for its audit failures over Maxwell and Barings, its new partners Price Waterhouse and rivals Ernst & Young may escape similar treatment for failing to spot the world's biggest banking fraud, the Bank of Conmen & Cocaine International.

The reason? The failures over BCCI may be considered too old to be pursued effectively! BCCI was closed down by banking regulators around the world in 1991.

This escape is thanks to a highly unusual legal loophole presented to Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young by the court of appeal which declared in 1993 that no disciplinary action could be taken against the firms or partners involved until the $11bn legal actions for negligence brought by the BCCI liquidators had been decided to prevent double jeopardy.

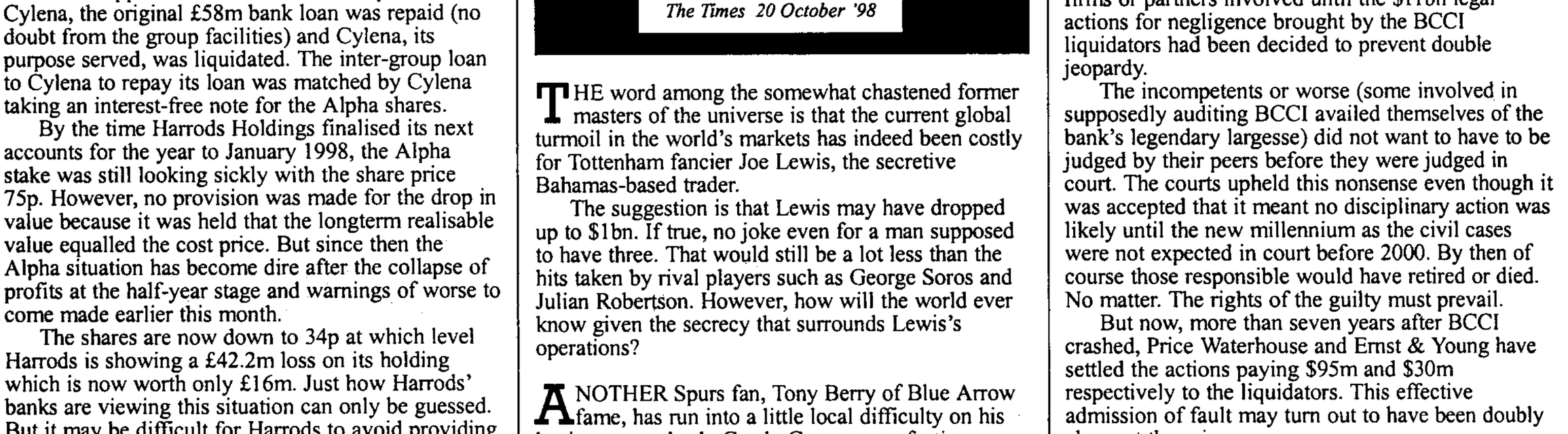
The incompetents or worse (some involved in supposedly auditing BCCI availed themselves of the bank's legendary largesse) did not want to have to be judged by their peers before they were judged in court. The courts upheld this nonsense even though it was accepted that it meant no disciplinary action was likely until the new millennium as the civil cases were not expected in court before 2000. By then of course those responsible would have retired or died. No matter. The rights of the guilty must prevail.

But now, more than seven years after BCCI crashed, Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young have settled the actions paying $95m and $30m respectively to the liquidators. This effective admission of fault may turn out to have been doubly cheap at the price.

'Slicker'

Celeb

LIGGER


EMERGENCY PHONE CALL FROM YOUR NEW ROCK 'N' ROLL HAMBURGER EMPORIUM, SIR...
OH NO! WHAT NOW?
THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER COMPLAINT ABOUT IT BEING A HEALTH RISK, SIR. A CUSTOMER IS THREATENING TO REPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT TO THE AUTHORITIES.
WHY? FOR CHRISSAKES?!
HE SAYS HE'S SPOTTED ROACHES ON THE KITCHEN FLOOR. LOTS OF THEM, I'M AFRAID.
NOT AGAIN. I THOUGHT WE'D ERADICATED THAT PROBLEM..
I'VE TOLD THE CHEF BEFORE - AND HIS STAFF. USE A BLOODY ASHTRAY.
I'LL PASS THE MESSAGE ON, SIR.
CLICK

The Express carried the following leaders in the last three months.

age of consent

time to end inequality and lower the age of consent

Since the consensus is that heterosexual men and women are capable of sufficient maturity at 16 to have sex, then there are no grounds for preventing homosexuals from doing so. Such discrimination has no place as we approach the millennium and today's vote will be a small but important step in modernising Britain.

single parents

lecturing on morals will not cure society's ills

The Government-backed Institute for the Family must take care not to become a moralising, patronising institution. While the Government may want to encourage two-parent families, it is not its place to dictate that this is the "best" way to bring up children.

the lords

blair must not bow to peer pressure on vital reforms

If the peers are after a fight, they should be given one. Their case is non-existent and the Government should show up their wrecking efforts.

sink estates

save sink estates from going down the plughole

For too long, politicians have ghettoised the problems of sink estates. The idea that increasing prosperity for all would have a "trickle down" effect on those living in high-rise blocks in deprived areas has been exposed as a myth. A deprived area remains a deprived area – and blights the wider area around it – unless tackled by the Government.

europe

Despite Mr Blair's praise for the single currency yesterday, the Government is not openly embracing the Euro. The Euro is up and away and we are left on the tarmac. We are missing out on many of the benefits of the free market. In doing so we take much of the pain of European membership without the gain.

THE EXPRESS

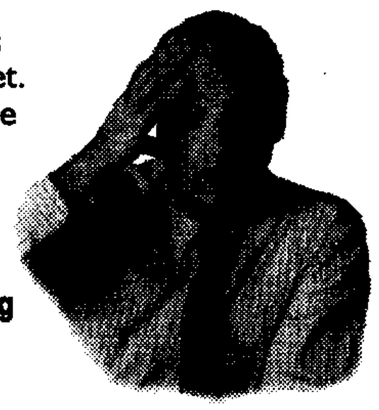
THE VOICE OF NEW BRITAIN

special EYEs

surveillance

DISCREET **SURVEILLANCE** EQUIPMENT
ENDS UNCERTAINTY!

Whether it's commercial or personal, disloyalty can have catastrophic results. Fortunately there is now a remedy.
Lorraine Electronics provide personal advice that's dependable, reliable and more importantly, discreet. You can write or telephone in confidence for advice or simply to request a free catalogue.



■ UHF Crystal Controlled Room and Telephone Transmitters ■ Body Wires and Wire Taps ■ Radio and Computer Controlled Systems ■ Specialist Receivers and Recorders ■ Recording and Transmitting Briefcases ■ Counter Surveillance Equipment

LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE
716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW
0181-558 4226
PROTECTING YOUR BEST INTERESTS FAX 0181 558 1338
NEW LONDON SHOWROOMS:
59 South Audley Street, Mayfair, W1Y 5FB 27 Conduit Street, (Bond Street), W1R 9TA
PE

music specialists

AUDIOPHILE COMPACT DISCS
PRESSED ON 24 CARAT GOLD, HEAR THESE CLASSIC ALBUMS AS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD THEM BEFORE

DON McLEAN: AMERICAN PIE. ONE OF MOST MEMORABLE RELEASES OF THE SEVENTIES, BOTH THE SINGLE AND ALBUM BROUGHT CHART-TOPPING SUCCESS TO POP/FOLK TROUBADOUR McLEAN. THIS AUDIOPHILE RELEASE BY MOBILE FIDELITY GIVES GREATLY IMPROVED INSTURMENTAL BALANCE AND FULL-FREQUENCY SOUND STAGE. AN ALBUM THAT HAS ASSUMED A MAJOR PLACE IN AMERICAN MUSIC HISTORY. UDCD 728. PRICE: £21.95

OTHER AUDIOPHILE CD RELEASES:
10CC: THE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK - £21.95
NAT "KING" COLE: THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU - £19.95
RAY CHARLES: INGREDIENTS IN A RECIPE FOR SOUL - £21.95
ROY ORBISON: ALL-TIME GREATEST HITS (DOUBLE ALBUM ON 1 CD) - £23.95*
ELVIS PRESLEY: ELVIS IS BACK - £19.95*
ELVIS PRESELY: 24 KARAT HITS (DOUBLE ALBUM ON 1 CD) - £23.95*
FRANK SINATRA: DUETS II - £19.95

*TITLES WITH AN * ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON 180G HQ VINYL*

WE ALSO STOCK JVC'S SUPERB XRCD RANGE A ND A SELECTION OF HDCD AND DAD TITLES AND 100'S OF HIGH-QUALITY VINYL TITLES
TO PLACE AN ORDER OR TO RECEIVE A FREE AUDIOPHILE CD OR VINYL CATALOGUE, CONTACT:

VIVANTE LONDON
UNIT 4, 60 HIGH STREET, HAMPTON WICK, SURREY KT1 4DB
TEL: 0181 977 6600 FAX: 0181 977 4445
EUROPE'S PREMIER AUDIOPHILE MAIL ORDER COMPANY

services

the Phone Café

WHERE ALL THE WOMEN ARE GENUINE CALLERS
DON'T GET MONKEYED AROUND
0891 30 31 71
Calls cost 50p/min at all times
TPC Box No 28, 93 Cowcross St, London EC1M 6BH

WIND UP YOUR FRIENDS!
Call one of the numbers below, put it through to a mate - then wait for the reaction!

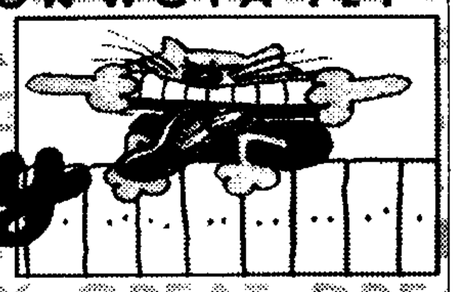
Invite to Number 10
0336 405411
The Detective
0336 405412
Mr. Stammer
0336 405413
Mr. Fury
0336 405414
My Daughter's Pregnant
0336 405415
JOKELINES, PO BOX 43, WARMINSTER, WILTS BA12 7RJ
Calls cost 50p/min at all times

To advertise on the special EYEs pages please call 0171-704 3406 Madison Bell Ltd

SPEECHWRITING SERVICES
CORPORATE • SOCIAL • POLITICAL
Fully Customised and confidential
MAKE EM LAUGH OR NO FEE!
Emergency Speeches Undertaken
Britain's leading Professional
MITCH MURRAY
01624 622660
Access - Visa - Mastercard

exhibitions

London Cartoon Gallery
44 MUSEUM ST, LONDON WC1A 1LY



A major retrospective of Oscar-winning British Animator
Bob Godfrey
Frames, cels & doodles from Henry's Cat, Great, Roobarb (& Custard), Small Talk and a host of others will be on show and offered for sale.
23rd OCTOBER - 7th NOVEMBER
For further information call 0171 242 5335 / fax 0171 242 2978

clubs

The
Blue Angel Club
welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.
Open for Lunch until early Morning, Monday to Friday
Membership not required.
17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 0171 636 2178

meeting people

SIRIUS *Synergy*
Creating People Chemistry
The Introduction Agency for the intelligent, articulate and well educated. 10,000 members nation-wide must be right ! Choose from our entire database before you decide. Enjoy over 200 events and holidays. Call for a Free Information Pack on 0800 542 3000 8:30am -10:30pm seven days a week or write to FREEPOST 305 London EC1B 1SY

"Dear Katharine Allen, please put me on hold for the next 10 years."

You won't get a hard cell from:
Katharine Allen Marriage Bureau
18 Thayer Street, London W1M 5LD
Tel: 0171 935 3115
E-mail KA@marry.co.uk

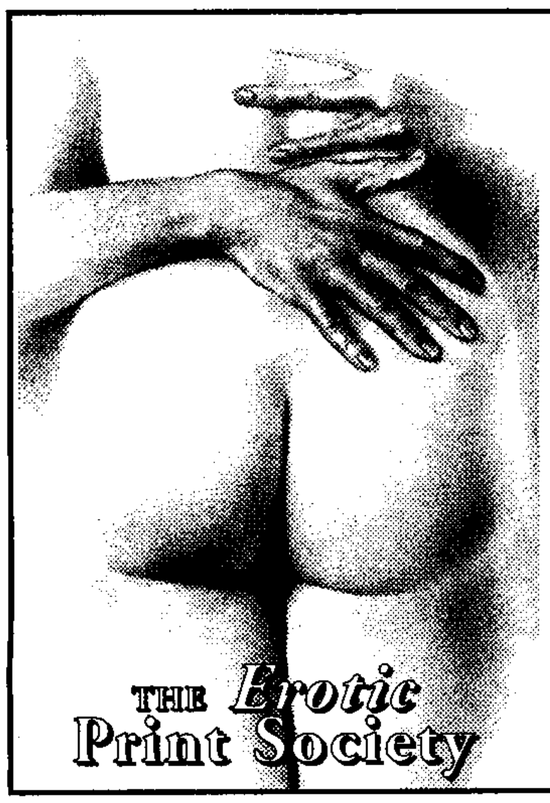
drink

ZYDOT

One hour after drinking Euro Blend, your urine may be pure for 4 to 5 hours

AVAILABLE AT GOOD STOCKISTS
For details call 01525 370 702
WWW.ZYDOT.COM

gifts



More erotic than ever...

The new Erotic Catalogue from EPS is selling like hot cakes. Now more than 60,000 have sold. Bigger and better than ever with over 100 pages and 120 illustrations but still only costs £5.

This week we invite you to send for the catalogue and recieve a free copy of the Erotic Review, Britain's fastest growing magazine which now sells for £2.50 and goes monthly from November.

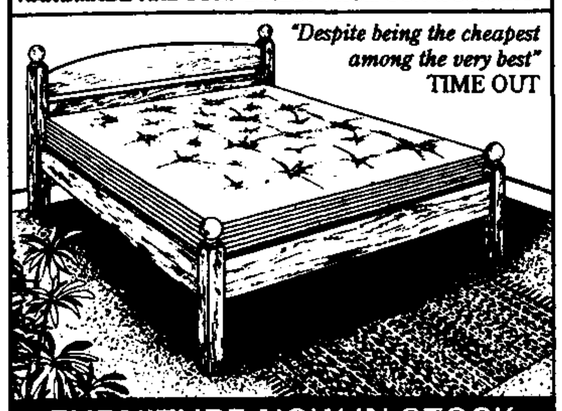
£5 Cheque (to 'EPS') or Visa-MasterCard-Amex details to: EPS, Dept. PO9, PO Box 2712, London W1A 5AY. Freephone orderline 0800 026 25 24 (you must quote 'Dept PO9' for the purposes of this offer) Fax 0171-437 3528.

Or browse our website at *http://www.eps.org.uk*

for sale

TAURUS PINE BEDS

HANDMADE AND SOLD DIRECT FROM OUR WORKSHOP



"Despite being the cheapest among the very best" TIME OUT

FURNITURE NOW IN STOCK

242 KILBURN HIGH ROAD LONDON NW6
OPEN SEVEN DAYS
FREE BROCHURE 0171 624 3024

Nature's 7 Secrets... Unlocked...

Tired of the frustration of impotence? Stop shying away from that 'special' moment for fear of humiliation, & let the Power of Mother Nature work for you! Based on an ancient remedy, **7 Secrets** harnesses the body's own healing powers, giving you **confidence** you never thought possible!

It's **Safe**, It's **Natural** and there are **NO Side Effects**. Realise your **FULL** potential **NOW**! A full course costs only **£12.99** (Cheque/P.O.) from; **McKinley Young, PO Box 8502 Ardrossan KA22 8YB**, or call our **Credit Card Hotline** on:

FREEFONE: 0800 389 4108
e.mail: **Nature7@netcomuk.co.uk**

ANY RECORD YOU'VE EVER WANTED COULD BE YOURS!

BEANOS

THE LARGEST SECOND - HAND RECORD STORE IN EUROPE

MIDDLE STREET, CROYDON SOUTH LONDON
MAIL ORDER SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE - 0181 680 1202
E-mail beanos@easynet.co.uk

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

From largest archives saved from the past. Printed between 1642-1998. Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN
520 Purley Way,
Croydon, Surrey
CR0 4RE. PE

0181 688 6323

What the best dressed walls are wearing this season

For a free catalogue

0181 853 1995

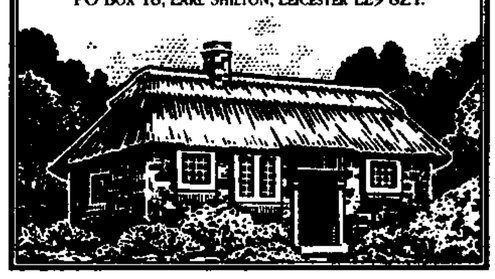
proof Photographic Art Direct

travel

English Country Cottages

AN UNRIVALLED selection of holiday cottages. For a quiet break or a special occasion. Over 2,000 properties of character in storybook settings with superb facilities. Free colour brochure.

RING 0870 585 1111
QUOTE. E2022 (24-hour service)
OR WRITE TO: ENGLISH COUNTRY COTTAGES, DEPT. E2022 PO BOX 18, EARL SHILTON, LEICESTER LE9 8ZY.



Increase your girth and be a man with "Seed of a Righteous Man" 's

365 RULES FOR MEN 1999 CALENDAR

Funny! Rude! Tells the date! It's the stocking filler with f**k!?g everything
- Father Christmas

£5 EACH, TWO FOR £8

Send a postal order/cheque (payable to "SOARM") to:
S.O.A.R.M 1 Kathleen Ave
Acton London W3 0NG
Please allow 28 days for delivery

Jigsaw Puzzles from YOUR photos

DELIVERED IN SEVEN WORKING DAYS IN AN ELEGANT GIFT BOX
280pcs - 15x11" - £14.99 inc p&p
120pcs - 15x11" - £13.99 inc p&p
60pcs - 15x11" - £12.99 inc p&p
30pcs - 11x8" - £10.99 inc p&p
TO ORDER SEND ANY SIZE PHOTOGRAPH (RETURNABLE) WITH PAYMENT TO US AT:
ARTY-ZAN, Dept.(PE1)
Fairholme Farm, 14 Croydon Lane
Banstead, Surrey SM7 3AN
01737 379342
FULL REFUND IF NOT 100% SATISFIED

PRIVATE EYE SMALLS

CLASSIFIED LINAGE ADVERTISEMENTS

£1.75 per word VAT inclusive
BUSINESS RATE £2.25 per word VAT inclusive

MINIMUM 10 WORDS
BORDERING £10 EXTRA
Box number £8 (non-business advertisers only)
Cheques payable to Madison Bell Ltd
DICTATE YOUR AD WITH CREDIT/DEBIT CARD
OR RING WITH QUERIES 0171 354 5386
OR FAX 0171 359 3085
E-mail: privateeye@madibell.demon.co.uk
MAIL YOUR AD OR BOX NUMBER REPLY TO:
PRIVATE EYE SMALLS, 3 ST PETER'S STREET,
LONDON N1 8JD

NAME, ADDRESS & TEL NO:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Send your advertisement with cheque/postal orders or ACCESS, VISA, SWITCH number. Do not send cash.

Every family has its BLACK SHEEP

Here's the perfect gift for anyone who's less than perfect. Beautifully made with a nodding head, it's better than they deserve at just **£23.95** including P&P.

Over 8 inches long, it's ideal for home, office or car.
Send cheques or PO's to: **The Derbyshire Ram, PO Box 5132, Derby DE73 1ZD**

Unique Christmas cards

On the front:
FULL-COLOUR PICTURE
Any image you like, taken from paintings or your photos. Plain, or wittily distorted, or sharp photomontage. Your ideas or ours.

...AND ANY AMOUNT OF TEXT
Across, around, below – or try an *Eye*-style speech bubble.

Inside:
unlimited single-colour text.

30 cards and envelopes **£45** +p&p **FREE brochure** 0181 520 7136 (24 hrs)

JACK PIKE 14 Copeland Road London E17 9DB jackpike@btinternet.com

PRIVATE EYE SMALLS

CLASSIFIED LINAGE ADVERTISEMENTS
DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 30TH
£1.75 per word personal, inc. vat
£2.25 per word business, inc. vat
Bordering £10, Box Number £8
3 St Peter's Street, London N1 8JD

0171 354 5386

QUOTE:

Elvis Presley is finally about to make that long-overdue European tour. On January 23 the King will play his first-ever date outside North America, with a gig at Wembley Arena that will be followed by 10 more shows across the continent. "Elvis: The Concert" will unite the Pelvis's former band members, a 16-piece orchestra... and a giant projection of the King. "Our lead singer is no longer living," admits Todd Morgan, the man behind the show. "It's just a minor technicality that we're no longer going to worry about."
THE GUARDIAN, Arts Diary.

EYE SAY

PETER BUCKLEY HILL should be Dr Who.

CONGRATULATIONS MISS BA HONS – love MUM and DAD,

DEISM – a relevant, secular, spiritual philosophy. See www.deism.com or write Box 0162.

www.lovenet.co.uk wink wink!

MI5 PERSECUTION, BBC Newscasters Spying on my Home – www.five.org.uk

AFFORDABLE PLANNING APPEALS anywhere – 0378 106454.

SECURE RESOURCES?

SPEECHWRITING by Mitch Murray – see page 30.

EYE JOIN

LEGALISE CANNABIS? Vote YES 0640 997704 – NO 0640 997706. API Box 72, OX18 2YD.

CSA PROBLEMS?
want to protest about the
CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY
mass lobby of parliament
House of Commons
12.30pm 18 November 1998
BE THERE!

EUROSCEPTIC 'GB' PLATES, £2 from STN, PO Box 1290, Sheffield, S11 8SG. http://www.savethenation.com

CARS – FREEDOM
Let's fight back – join
The Association of British Drivers
NOW
07000 781544

EYE FIND

ELIZABETH GADD/Summers – Bedford College 1965 to 1968. Please contact ANGELA and MARIAN. Box 0562.

SHEILA BAERLEIN, Russell Baerlein (deceased) and Glyn Watts (deceased). Please ring 01235 850671 (in confidence) to tell me about them.

EYE CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES

EXCLUSIVE FRENCH GOURMET Christmas HAMPERS – traditional farmhouse specialities from £27. Tel/fax 0171 207 4481, tursa@dial.pipex.com http//dspace.dial.pipex.com/tursa.perigord/

NAUGHTY CRACKERS – for any sort of occasion. Stag/Hen/Office/Dinner parties. Any number. Brochures on request. Telephone: 01323 833138.

THE PAMPER HAMPER
from £100
Lucky Dip Gift Boxes
offer an original fun alternative
CHRISTMAS GIFT.
Ideal for clients, staff, loved ones,
friends and even family.
Themes include
THE EXECUTIVE, EROTICA,
THE GOLFER,
THE GOURMET COOK,
THE GARDENER, PETS PARLOUR
AND THE PAMPER HAMPER.
Each gift box contains a minimum of six beautifully hand wrapped quality gifts presented in an attractive wicker hamper
Delivered to a door of your choice
Phone 01243 778585

CARICATURES FROM PHOTOS – the ultimate personalised gift. DAVE BAXTER, 01227 362893.

'ROTTEN STINKERS!' Caricatures from photos or LIVE at occasions. Tel/Fax: 01730 821171.

IMPRESSIVE CERTIFICATES made to order. S.A.E. to PL Quinn, 54 Murat Street, Waterloo, LIVERPOOL L22 8QW. degreee@cableinet.co.uk

CLINTON LEWINSKY bumper dossier of Internet jokes, cartoons and adult photos – only £10 from INC Software, PO Box 11164, Paisley, PA2 9YW.

TITLES – LORD, LADY, etc. from £195. Tel/Fax 0171 681 2811. www.elitetitles.co.uk

PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE
your unique message
printed on the label
delivered NEXTDAY nationwide £25
0181 675 9494.

"MERDE IL PLEUT" umbrellas £19.99 inc. p&p – OVERHEADS, 1 Wick Close, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 2NQ. Telephone 01235 526622.

CARICATURES FROM PHOTO'S and live for special occasions. Tel/Fax 01327 359213.

T SHIRTS
to really piss off the fuzz
www.drugdealer.co.uk

RARE COFFEES – FROM AROUND THE WORLD. Be among the first in the UK to taste 4 delicious gourmet coffees from award winning GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE ROASTERS of Vermont. Special offer for pioneers £29.99 (includes delivery) for 4 bags of exotic coffee beans: Costa Rican La Minita Tarrazu Dark (283g). Guatemalan Finca Dos Marias (340g), Organic Mexican Select (340g) and Organic Sumatran Reserve (283g)... the perfect Christmas present. Freephone 0800-0279495 quoting 'Private Eye'.

REMOTE CONTROLLED FART machine – funniest ever gag – WORKS THROUGH WALLS. £14.95. Telephone: 01253 839495.

FK YOU!**
(and 4 other insults)
Remote Controlled Insult Machine £19.50
Remote Controlled Fart Machine £14.50
Activated Carbon Fart Filters £4.95
CREDIT CARDS 01788 551251
24 hours
www.fartypants.com

'DOG PLANET', The Cartoon Studio: Issue one – £2.75 to ZEBRA PUBLISHING, Middle Street, London EC1A 7JA.

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING printed onto a t-shirt/mousemat! A.P.P.S., 26 Thurnham Street, Lancaster, LA1 1XU. 01524 841286 – www.apps.uk.com (Bulk/Trade enquiries welcome).

FREE MEMBERSHIP
of the
LANDED GENTRY SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN
with every title purchased.
Fast, Confidential service.
ENGLISH MANOR TITLES
01803 858644.

PLAY THE "GAME" – name your Michael Douglas. Page: 0336 777830.

VARIATIONS
Gifts for
MUSIC-LOVERS
Exclusive mail-order catalogue
FREE
0800 731 2450

'ROTTEN STINKERS!' Caricatures from photos or LIVE at occasions. Tel/Fax: 01730 821171.

EYE DIE – have the last laugh, do not go quietly into the night. Personal HISTORIES AND TESTAMENTS recorded and edited on digital video by professional production crew... Go on – have the last laugh! 0171 419 9553.

1935 YELLOW ROLLS ROYCE
for special occasions
– South East –
01892 770310
www.driveon.co.uk

A TITLE PLUS LAND for £10. HONEST! Details: SURVIVAL, (P), 'Norcot', LYBSTER, Caithness KW3 6AQ.

0800-CHAMPAGNE LTD
(0800-242 672)
Gift-wrapped
delivered nationwide.

FLYING, GLIDING, helicopters, motor racing, rallying, vintage aircraft, ballooning, simulators, skydiving. Introductory GIFT VOUCHERS from £55 valid 100+ locations nationwide. FREE BROCHURE: ACORNE SPORTS – 01494 451703.

PERSONALISED coir DOOR MATS! Your text printed and delivered from £15.99 – 24hr brochure request: 01579 382358.

BALLOON FLIGHTS Berks – Hants – Herts – Oxon – Surrey & over London! £115 – Adventure Balloons 01252 844222.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY newspapers – FREEPHONE 0800 906609.

PERSONALISED BEER – your message PRINTED ON THE LABEL. £13.90 – 3fi litre bottles, presentation boxed, DELIVERED – 01505 850267.

EYE DRIVE

PERSONALISED NUMBER PLATE P12 EYE (PR.EYE) – offers over £400: 0171 739 9281.

RENT-A-DENT self-drive CAR HIRE from £15 daily, £95 weekly – 0181 952 8456.

EYE SELL

CALCUTTA BASED small manufacturer offers leather wallets, purses, key rings and giftwares. TRADE ENQUIRY: fax GUPTA on 0091-3-440-261.

GOTHIC IMAGE IN GLASTONBURY is for sale. 23 year international reputation. Innovative retailer in books, music, related items. Prime High Street 1200 sq. ft leasehold site. Extensive store, offices and flat. Directors pursuing other interests. Phone 01458 831528 for details.

EYE GO GREEN – discover organics with ORGANICS DIRECT – delivered to your door straight from the farm. Fruit, vegetables, dairy, dried goods – nationwide delivery. Call now for your free brochure. 0171 729 2828.

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – Mostly £100-£3,000. Shed not shop, telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

RADIO CONTROLLED WATCHES & clocks. Phenomenally accurate Junghans, Kundo and Zeon Tech timepieces by Mail Order. Free catalogue: CORNEAL CLOCKS & WATCHES, FREEPOST LS6541B, Leeds, LS8 5YY. Tel: 0113 293 7437. (24hrs – 7 days).

KEYBACK
safely recovers your business/
personal keys when you lose them
Only £5
0800 3285472

SECURE RESOURCES?

LIMITED OR PLC COMPANIES: £90 – brochure: FREEPHONE 0800 526421, e-mail: cosun@drink.demon.co.uk

COPIERS/FAX – 0800 4580006, www.mimesis.com

EYE HOMES

PRIVATE ISLAND, 125 acres, cottage, Southwest Ireland – for lease. Box 0262.

EYE TECH

CATCH THE EYE of the best computer enthusiasts in the land with CIX. Free Sign-UP, Free Software, Full Internet Access, Full Conferencing, Usenet News, 100% UK local call, 5mb free web space, Email, X2, Help Line. £6.25 (+vat) per month including two and a half hours free. £14.99 (+vat) per month including twenty five hours free. www.cix.co.uk or call 0845 355 5050 for free brochure and software.

100,000 SOFTWARE TITLES to download – www.bookstore.co.uk

INPHASE TECHNOLOGY – computer repairs and maintenance service – upgrading. PC monitors and printers, data retrieval.

PROFESSIONAL
WebSites
the complete web service
Tel: 0181 404 6785
Fax: 0181 404 6786

COMPUTER TROUBLE? Let a genuine PC expert help you with ADVICE, INSTALLATION, SETUP, PROGRAMMING AND TROUBLE-SHOOTING – and save yourself some big headaches. Call TOBY on 0171 229 3001 for friendly, professional advice.

SECURE RESOURCES?

EYE BUYS

450 ISSUES 1980-1998 some missing. Offers 0161 998 3191.

OVER 400 EYES FOR SALE 1981 to present. Tel: 0181 958 8734.

ISSUE 471 TO 918 inclusive complete. 01706 841429. Best offers.

EYE READ

DODGY AMOURS, kinky imbroglios. Laughable. – MEDIA VITA: www.unde.clara.net

OUT OF PRINT BOOKS FOUND no obligation to purchase – 01376 562334.

THE DISCIPLINE ARCHIVE
"intended to titillate and arouse" – Forum
A detailed eyerotic account of corporal punishment applied to young adults 50 years ago at a UK college
£13.95 from
SPIRAL OAK,
PO 13991, Edinburgh, EH16 6WD

PATH BREAKING DISCOVERIES convincingly reconcile psychology/spirituality /history/life. www.the-wisdom-store.com

CREAM CAKES and Boundaries – Village Cricket Tea Recipes. Humorous, illustrated recipes. Anecdotes from ex-England cricketers and genuine tea ladies. £9.95 inc p&p. THE CRICKETER 01892 740697.

US BOOKS – US PRICES on line at www.bookstore.co.uk or phone 01494 882252.

EYE MOVES

JAMES REMOVALS – household/office; storage/boxes. Local/UK. 0171 431 1713.

IRISH REMOVALS – experienced owner/driver. Full/part loads: 01232 838111. Anytime.

EYE HEAR

70s GLAM ROCK
"The best tribute band"
Aroused?
Call 0181 892 1280.

JAZZ
TRIO/QUARTET
available for
DINNER, COCKTAIL, XMAS PARTIES
0181 518 1881
(0973 131662).

EYE HELP

TAPE TRANSCRIPTION & Translation. Audio/video, confidential, rapid service. 01902 313008.

AFFORDABLE PLANNING APPEALS anywhere – 0378 106454.

DEEP IN DEBT?
Bailiffs, VAT, Revenue, Bank, Personal, Trade
PRESSURE OFF – PROBLEM SOLVED!
ENTER THREE LTD
0121 244 8888
Don't procrastinate – we'll negotiate
Licensed Debt Adjusters.

REFUSED CREDIT? Blacklisted? 0181 621 1118 – NOW!

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS guaranteed confidential & discreet. Mail, phone, fax services and short-term room hire, London N3. 0181 343 2316.

SECRET BANKING!
Second Passports, Offshore Freedom, Privacy Tactics
QUESTER PRESS,
Box A37, 6-8 High Street,
Bishops Waltham, Hants, SO32 1AB
FREE INFO PACK!
Tel: 01489 890044
Fax: 01489 890055

CONFIDENTIAL MAILING address – interesting range low-profile privacy related services and products. 0181 556 2979 for brochure.

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS
discreet, confidential
mail/message-holding service.
REGENT STREET 0171 580 4242.
email: hold-everything.com
Forget the rest – we're the best!

EXPERIENCED PRIVATE medical practitioner able to prescribe for male impotence problems after consultation and examination. Reasonable fees also available for medical examination. Write T.S. PO Box 760 Morden, SM4 2QJ.

SECURE RESOURCES?

DEBT PROBLEMS?
Chartered Accountant
negotiates settlements of
called-in bank overdrafts,
personal guarantees/repossession shortfalls
SUCCESS ONLY BASIS.
STEPHEN H. ROSS & CO,
28 Devonshire Street, London W1.
0171 224 1231.

SPEECHWRITING by MITCH MURRAY – See Page 30.

EYE DETECT

MERLIN INVESTIGATIONS – journalism to surveillance – no stone unturned. Telephone: 01992 767257; Fax: 01992 767277; Mobile: 0802 734489; merlin999@bigfoot.com

PRIVATE DETECTIVE – 0961 848737.

LINK INVESTIGATIONS – Private and Commercial Investigators – Tracing Debtors, Lost Family and Friends, Matrimonial, Surveillance, Photographic Evidence, Witness Statements, Undercover Agents, Test Purchases, Staff Vetting, Fraud, De-Bugging, Professional and Discreet. Operative 24 hours a day. Tel: 01737 844824. Fax: 01737 844688.

SECURE RESOURCES?

EYE PROTECT

SURVEILLANCE OPERATIVES available – ex-forces police, individuals or teams. Mobile number 0961 541108; pager number 01523 133247.

SECURE RESOURCES?

EYE WANT

WANTED – TRAVEL STORIES & pics of S.A, Far East, Canada, Alaska, Latin America & Egypt. Call Annette 0171 494 1150.

JOURNALIST SEEKS Yugoslav war criminals – any details to Suite 556, 2 Old Brompton Road, London SW7.

GROUND RENTS
OR RENT CHARGES
required.
Can be commercial or residential, freehold or leasehold.
In-house legal department ensures speedy completion.
Details to:
COMPTON GROUP,
PO Box 425, Swansea, SA6 8YH.

FEMALE WITH DYSLEXIC origins, 60+, wants to correspond with person of satirical, political sense of humour. 01884 255279.

EYE CARE

MEDICAL CLINIC: sex/relationship counselling. Viagra where indicated. Central London – 07050 103270.

LOSING YOUR HAIR? Multiflora genuinely reverses loss! FREE TRIAL – 0171 381 0002.

SWAP YOUR BIRTHMARK
for some one else's.
And especially if nothing else works.
Box 0362

TELEPHONE COUNSELLING – a friendly, professional service from the ALEXANDER GROUP. For an appointment call: 01545 560402.

HORMONES DIRECT
powerful female hormones to promote development of feminine breasts and reduce facial and body hair.
Free information pack from
MEDICA INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS
(MedPE/HD2),
Chalchera Sura, CH-7505 Celerina, Switzerland.
Fax: +41 818 33 88 90
www.medica.ch

HERBALIFE: LOSE WEIGHT NOW eating the foods you love. 08000 748718.

CHINESE HERBAL HEALTH drink cured may ailments. Telephone 01495 306705.

GP EXPRESS
private telephone consultations
by experienced GPs
£14.99 per call
Collect prescriptions
from your local chemist
Friendly, comprehensive, confidential
9.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday
07000 GP Express (473977)

CONSULTANT HYPNOTHERAPIST, Harley Street. Stress, panic attacks, eating disorders, confidence, sexual problems, smoking, etc. Telephone: JESSICA RICHARDS – 0171 935 0023.

ERECTION CORRECTION
for treatment of impotence etc.,
call
VIR CLINICS
on 0800 163861
(featured in Sunday Mirror).

EYE LEARN

BARCELONA – Learning Spanish, living in teacher's house. Any age. Fax: 0034 93 3718725.

SIMPLY THE BEST Driving Courses. Manual/automatic. HIGHWAY HOLIDAYS — 01492 531517.

UNIVERSITY life-experienced DEGREES – 0161 795 3056.

EYE EARN

NEVER AGAIN be without money – earn fortune from adult dating and phone-lines. Free info: 07000 780794, Ext 222.

£2,000 – one day's work! 0181 621 1118.

FREE BUSINESS – FREE PRODUCT. Freephone 0800 594 2233 – 0121 429 1570 for information pack.

EYE JOBS

FLEE THE CITY – we need: imaginative graduate with city training to write multimedia courses for use in major investment banks. We offer: chilled environ, no suits, Clerkenwell office, £18-25k. CV and letter to David Bond, WIDE MULTIMEDIA, 2 Northburgh St, London, EC1V 0AY.

EYE WORK

PASTRY CHEF seeks serious backers for a modern coffee shop. Fax 0181 368 4452.

HARDWORKING DESIGN engineer, 49, HNC Mech, BA(OU) looking for change for direction or business opportunity. Honest but not stupid. Job satisfaction more important than remuneration. Midlands preferred but not essential. Box 0462.

EYE FINANCE

EXCITING FILM PROJECT with major composer and cast. Great worldwide potential. Seek investors/exec-producers – 0958 646173.

CREDIT SECRETS OF THE RICH revealed. All the credit you desire. No credit checks. Loans that you never have to repay. 0709 112 2114 (24 hrs).

SMALL COMPANY REQUIRES priming loan £15,000. Six month trading history available. ADS Ltd. Phone PAUL 0467 754864 for details.

EYE BET

SUPER NINES – Super Nines is a betting plan that works 97% of the time. It is essential betting knowledge. £10.00 from P.J. Publications, 45 Swinton Crescent, Unsworth, Bury, BL9 8PB. Tel: Fax 0161 766 3802.

INSIDER INFORMATION available from very successful gambling stable – 0976 730979.

5 GRAND PER WEEK
just for playing Blackjack.
That was until the casinos found out what I was up to.
Now they won't let me through their doors.
16 times more powerful than card counting.
0181 236 4264.

CASINO BLACKJACK – Lucrative opportunity. Infopack 01344 780259.

EYE NEED

PLEASE HELP ME send my parents on what may be their last holiday. With sincere thanks. Abbey National 09-01-26, 23884840.

DESPERATE. Need £10,000 to boost art career. Eternal repayment in cash/ pictures. Box 2462.

PRISONER DEATH ROW Texas needs funds for appeal and self-help project. Details: Box 3062.

PSYCHEDELIC HEALING and research clinic. £3200 short of start up costs. Please fund. Pager 07654 274278. Abbey National X11024517C00.

ASIAN LADY – desperate to fund education. Midland 40 02 08, 71192167.

HELP! NORTHERN LADY, 49, wants face lift. Any offers to put a smile on my face? Box 2762.

DESPERATE GRADUATE needs £6,000 to get out of debt and make a fresh start. Midland 40-09-12, 91534254.

DESPERATE FAMILY MAN at wit's end with debt problems needs £8500 – any appreciated. Natwest 60-05-23, 96658495.

WORKING CLASS STUDENT, horrible debts, let down by Blair. Help much appreciated. Co-op 089074, 25015119.

£1,500 REQUIRED establishing temple in Sussex. Donations gratefully accepted. Halixax 11-00-17, 00110571.

PALAEONTOLOGIST seeks financial support for expedition. 09-01-26, 04612170.

HELP DEBT RIDDEN single dad, desperate for cash. Barclays 20-44-86, 30557285.

I AM POISONED by pesticides – I need money to fight against chemical minded gangsters. Box 2862.

COMMITTED THERAPIST needs £3000 funding towards valuable gastrointestinal health research project showing remarkable results. Sincere gratitude. Midland 40-47-22, 61244167 or Box 2962.

HELP SMASH LAWYERS in negligence case. 50K spend already, at least another 50 needed. Serious. Grateful. Alliance and Leicester Account Number 231-038980-53.

TALENTED, REPRESENTED actor, needs overdraft cleared to help focus. £1500.00. Barclays 20-73-53, 10280380.

DESPERATE SINGLE PARENT facing homelessness – £25,000. Royal Bank of Scotland 83-21-05, 6718 8414 9339 2671.

SINGLE MOTHER running HIGHLAND ANIMAL SANCTUARY / retirement home, needs finance for vets/feed etc. Please help. Thankyou – from the animals and me! RBS 83-23-10, 00651675.

EYE ESCAPE

MARRAKESH – charming, traditional 7-roomed house in Old City. Terrace. Views Atlas. Sleeps 6-8. Cook/Maid service included. £350 p.w. – 0171 480 7998.

SOUTH AMERICA – adventure trips through the Amazon, over the Andes and across Patagonia to Rio carnival. OVERLAND LATIN AMERICA – 01926 311332.

VISIT VIETNAM – BROCHURE: 0171 727 5299.

NEW YORK! Friendly B&B, Greenwich Village artists loft. Self-catering available. Telephone 001 212 6143034. Fax 001 212 6743393, mail@westvillagebb.com

MURDER WEEKENDS and other ideas. WWW.Mayhem.org.uk. Telephone 0181 959 6579 for brochure.

EASTERN EUROPE – Prague 2-5 star hotels £14-£54pp. Air seats £159 + tax. Budapest £19-£42pp. KRAKOW £18-£35pp. VIENNA, BERLIN, MUNICH, DRESDEN too. Agents for ATOL holders. Autoplan 01543 257777.

AWARD WINNING guided KAYAK-TOURS with SeaCanoe International – in THAILAND, VIETNAM, the PHILIPPINES, POLYNESIA and LAOS. Ask about our videos. A true back to nature experience. info@seacanoe.com http://seacanoe.com Tel/Fax: 0171 691 9348.

DIRTY WEEKENDS – walking, biking – staying in super WYE VALLEY cottages. Tel 01594 530393.

THE FULL MONTE VIDEO. Tailor-made escorted groups tours plus scheduled flights to Latin America. JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA. Fully bonded. ATOL, AITO. Tel: 0181 747 8315.

AFRICAN SAFARIS – 4 to 21 weeks camping adventures. For the best value game-watching & sightseeing, telephone PHOENIX EXPEDITIONS – 01509-881818.

EYE SKI

SKI IN COURCHEVEL,
VAL D'ISERE, LA TANIA.
Catered chalets, superb food, wine,
our own Le Ski School and crèche.
LE SKI
01484 548996
ATOL 2307 AITO

EYE FLY

CONSULT THE ORACLE! Affordable travel expertly predicted! Fully bonded. Tel/Fax: 01904 608941. www.speartravels.co.uk

WORLDWIDE LOWEST prices allegedly! Tel: 01942 603599 / 680268. Fax: 01942 670868. Agents ATOL holders.

LOWCOST WORLDWIDE flight specialists. Call 0171 287 1222, IATA/ATOL 3424.

EYE CONTACT

COVENT GARDEN Singles Parties. Thursday, Friday, Saturday. ages 30-50. £20 – 0171 836 3070.

ADDITIONS – Attached? Yet need a loving friend? Nationwide newsletter – 0181 905 3304, 0181 958 9657. Total discretion assured (no computers used). Featured on ITV, American TV, BBC, Radios 4/5. Established 1992.

www.adcdating.co.uk – Free ads.

AMAZINGLY ALLURING irresistible Thai ladies w.l.t.m. sincere unattached British Gentleman. Free colour brochure. Personal profiles available. Thai Princess Introductions. Tel 01562 748600 (24hrs).

LOVELY GIRLS from Scandinavia and worldwide wish to correspond. Free details, photos. WWC Box 78/p, S-42422 ANGERED, Sweden.

PARTIES FOR broadminded couples and singles. Nationwide and local contacts – 01582 750947, PO Box 2097, Luton, LU3 2ZT.

ATTACHED? Seeking romance?

ADULT
CONTACTS CHATLINE
Calls cost 60p per minute
Message Exchange Supreme
BN3 3RU
0640 611688

LOVING LINKS is the UK's leading dating newsletter and consultancy service for roving romantics. Discreet, efficient and 100% SECURE. Please do not confuse us with other services. Call DAVID for a friendly chat on 0171 460 7486/0181 962 6300 or visit us on www.lovinglinks.co.uk. As featured in The Times, The Guardian and major T.V. and Radio networks.

MARGARET'S special PEN CLUB – make new friends today UK & overseas. SAE details: PO Box 1, Prestwick, Ayrshire KA9 1RJ. Est. 1986.

PLUMP PARTNERS – National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner – ring 01352 715909.

AMERICAN LADIES seek BRITISH GENTLEMEN! Free details: TRANSATLANTIC CONNECTIONS, Box 2188-PE, San Pedro, California 90731, USA.

HEDONISM PARTIES, clubnights, holidays. Decadent, uninhibited, exhibitionist, fun-loving party animals. Singles, couples. S.a.e. PO Box 153, Greenford, UB6 8LY. 0181 575 2052.

VENEZUELAN WOMEN
beauty, elegance, culture.
VENEZIA
PO Box 3506, Dorchester,
DT1 1ZD
litven@aol.co.uk

THAI CONNECTIONS – free brochure, video £15. Geoff Rozenberg, 43 Trowbridge Gardens, Luton, LU2 7JY. 01582 481725.

CONTACT MAG for adults: over 900 photos. APPROVAL copy from: MATCHMAKER, (S.76), Chorley, PR7 4BS. Or ring: 01257 480155 (24 hours).

ADULT FUN FUN FUN! Our members don't care if you are single, married, divorced or just PLAIN BORED. They want to have fun. Do you? Free membership information 0117 981 9521.

CONTACT CHATLINE – instant contact with women and girls 18+. Message exchange. Calls cost 60p per minute. JCG, BN22 8PW – 0640 644026.

PERSON TO PERSON – best singles magazine for friends / partners, U.K. or overseas. FREE DETAILS (Dept PE/8) P.O. Box 4, Goring-on-Thames, RG8 9DN.

YOUNG LADIES worldwide seeks penpals, friends, lifemates. Free details, photos! HERMES, Box 610188/S, 10922 Berlin, Germany. Fax: 0049 30 25299775.

AstroFree – 0500 820283.

BEAUTIFUL THAI LADIES – colour brochure SIAM INTRODUCTIONS (established 13 years) – 01689 860880.

EYE LOVE

TALL MAN OF THE WORLD , 42 seeks affectionate, interesting woman of the universe. Hants ono. Box 1462.

EX-PROFESSIONAL SPORTSMAN, 44, white, 5ft 9", likes – arts, reading, theatre, good food, wine, etc – seeks a naughty lady any age for "day times" and evenings out. Lunch, dinner etc. Discretion assured. Box 1562.

FATHER FIGURE, Croydon home, kind, genuine – seeks slim, quietish ordinary girl, over 18, needing firm care, love and support. Box 0862.

ADVERTISER WLTM F who enjoys reading the novels and writings of Lawrence Durrell. Box 1662.

ATTRACTIVE FEMALE own home, car, teeth, hair – seeks unattached male non-smoker, age 45-53, height 5'8"-6'0". Any nationality/religion for friendship/marriage. Cheshire or South East. Box 0762.

ATTRACTIVE, SLIM, professional London male, 30, warm and open, with GSOH, varied interests, WLTM sensuous, fun-loving lady, age/status immaterial – to share friendship, fun, frolics. Box 1162.

GREENEYED WOMAN, highly attractive, intelligent, opinionated, yet sweet, 38, bi-sexual, media background, one time rock chick, seeks unconventional, good-looking, intriguing, successful, indulgent man. Vegetarian preferred. Photo essential. Box 1262.

PRETTY BRUNETTE seeks fun with someone healthy, wealthy and intelligent. Box 1362.

SUCCESSFUL, TALL, passionate businessman, 40, Bath/London – seeks a younger woman for discreet fun and mutual benefits. I enjoy life to the full; film, theatre, travel, eating out and eating in, laughter and the rich tapestry of life. If you would like a fun relationship with a man who really knows how to have good times then please write to me with your telephone number to Box 1762.

SLY OLD TOM (39) seeks pedigree pussy in need of regular TLC. No strings (Midlands). Box 1862.

TALL GENT, FIFTIES, strict yet affectionate, WLTM buxom submissive n.s. female. Essex. Box 1962.

BORED MALE, 40, good looking, professional, looking for sexy lady to spice up evenings or weekends. London/South East. Photo. Box 2062.

DISABLED, CULTURED SUCKER wltm excessively thin woman for nurturing relationship. Box 2162.

CURVACEOUS, CONFIDENT bubbly graduate, (24), wltm male, 25-40, gorgeous eyes (rest unimportant) to go Dutch (cinema, dinner, pubs – whatever). Central Scotland/London. Box 2262.

FEMALE RADIO 3 LISTENER, (early 40's, into Opera) seeks male of same species (any age) for fun & friendship. Box 2362.

PROFESSIONAL MALE seeks pretty lady, 18-45, for discreet, natural love. MG142JB. Box 2462.

HANDSOME, CARING, educated, single man, 39, seeks attractive, cheerful interesting 20s/30s woman for come what may, London. Photo welcome. Box 1062.

FIT BLOKE, 48, slim, average height, good looking, educated but no ponce, seeks n.s. slender, arty female for cuddles. Solent area. ALA. Box 0962.

EYE SOLDIER

EXTREMELY UNPROFESSIONAL soldier (31), soon to be back from the front, seeks new position to fortify. Has own entrenching tool. Box 0662.

REPLY TO A PRIVATE EYE BOX NUMBER LIKE THIS:

Box No.....
PRIVATE EYE
3 ST PETER'S STREET
LONDON N1 8JD

THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF BRENT

In the West End

"Pure joy"
Michael Billington *The Guardian*

"It's a hoot"
John Peter *The Sunday Times*

LOVE UPON THE THRONE

PATRICK BARLOW JOHN RANKIN LIGHTING BY CHRIS ELLIS DESIGNED BY FRANCIS O'CONNOR DIRECTED BY MARTIN DUNCAN

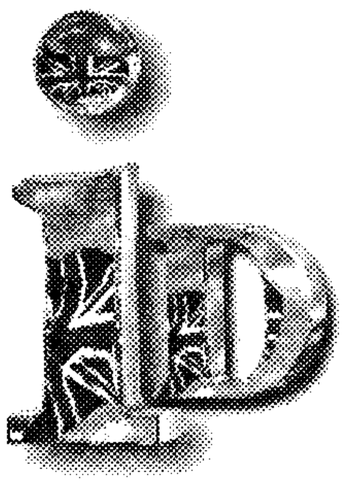
FROM 4 NOVEMBER – 30 JANUARY 1999

COMEDY THEATRE
Panton Street, London SW1

BOX OFFICE & CREDIT CARDS
0171 369 1731

TICKETMASTER
0171 344 4444
CC 24 HOURS - NO BOOKING FEE

Looking for Someone?
Find them in SECONDS!



"From Britain's largest source of Information CD-ROM products comes Britain's top selling CD ROM Directory"

Pro £199.95
Standard £29.95
(Inc VAT. Plus P&P)

UK-Info Disk (Version 3)

- 42 million residential names, addresses & telephone numbers
- **New 1.5 million business telephone numbers**
- Phone number reverse search (A ruling by the Data Protection Registrar means that this powerfull feature on the Pro, will be withdrawn shortly.)
- **New UK Maps**
- Networkable

FREEPHONE
0800 980 7100
- Buy Now Offer -
www.bidd.co.uk

BIDD

BIDD is a Trading Division of Shops Direct International Ltd.

GOVERNMENT AUCTION NEWS

The **monthly journal** for the most comprehensive nationwide coverage of:

Bankruptcy and liquidation sales of the seized assets of companies in receivership/administration - goods which are auctioned for whatever anyone is prepared to pay. Hundreds of sales listed each month of all types of goods.

HM Customs & Excise sales of impounded articles - from the effects of drug traffickers and racketeers to a lost and found dinghy, also goods confiscated in lieu of duty and those seized at ports and airports etc.

Police sales of unclaimed lost, stolen and recovered possessions - bicycles, household electronics, jewellery, business equipment, car stereos, cell phones, etc. - 'Aladdin's Caves', the contents of which are auctioned regularly. Buy from the police cheaper than you could from the criminals!

Government Surplus - Ministry of Defence/Home Office vehicles, computers, tools, hardware, school and hospital supplies, nationalised public utility service machinery, generators, clothing, furniture, local authority and council property and land etc.

Transport Department sales of lost and unclaimed personal effects - from umbrellas by the thousand to handbags, briefcases, overcoats, filofaxes, wallets, books and even baby buggies, including sales of airport lost property.

On-Site sales - liquidation/relocation auctions of stocks that are too vast or bulky to be moved - those which take place on the premises or at trading sites and thus occur at different venues every week.

Plant and Machinery specialist sales - agents who deal solely in printing machines, farm equipment, photography, computers, the catering and building trade, electronics, mechanical, vehicles, etc.

USA Government Department of Defense surplus sales which take place regularly in the UK and throughout Europe - new and used merchandise which includes everything imaginable required to service the modern armed forces.

... plus property and mail order catalogue returns.

"The Bargain Hunter's Companion"

Now, here is a unique opportunity for you to participate in these little-publicised auctions which anyone is allowed is allowed to attend but few ever get to hear about. These are the most exciting, fascinating, lucrative and rewarding auctions around as most offer **no reserve prices** - where the goods under the hammer have to be sold, there and then, for whatever is offered.

Government Auction News is referred to and found invaluable by **private** and **public companies** alike, **small businesses, purchasing managers, retailers, traders, charities and trusts, schools and colleges, specialist dealers, importers and exporters,** together with cost-conscious individuals and bargain hunters of all kinds. Many have been referred to **GAN** by the **DTI, DoE, HMSO, HM Customs and the Small Business Advice Centre.**

Readers save, and in many cases make, hundreds, thousands of pounds. Anyone can take advantage of bargains such as these recent examples:

Item	Retail Price	At Auction
Porsche 928	£22,000	**£7,560**
Bedroom Suite	£500	**£27**
Pioneer Hi-Fi	£500	**£20**
Canon Photocopier	£3,000	**£240**
E-Type Jaguar	£6,000	**£3,500**
Honda 250 Motorbike	£1,900	**£250**
Garden Strimmer	£70	**£5**
Freezer	£200	**£40**
Toshiba Fax Machine	£400	**£60**
Landrover	£4,750	**£2,300**
Mountain Bike	£200	**£15**
Miele Washing Machine/Drier	£600	**£3**
Large Pine Kitchen Table	£250	**£45**
Grundig Car Stereo	£195	**£30**

Together with detailing over **1,000 major sales** each month (locations, dates, times, contents) **Government Auction News** is packed with features, articles, editorial and investigative reports. Readers also have private access to a unique **fax information service** which keeps you in constant touch with the market and brings fresh information on priceless short-notice sales to your immediate attention.

"Having attended my first auction I have really had my eyes opened. Visiting auctions will certainly add a very interesting and lucrative string to my bow. I thank you. Most beneficial." B.D., Wolverhampton

"Having attended auctions locally, I was amazed how cheap many of the goods were being sold off at. I realise the good value where the purchaser can more than make up the cost at his first auction." R.R., Bradford

"I have made enough profit from ONE sale to pay for [the information] 90 times over!" M.M., Yorks.

And as featured by Watchdog 'Value for Money', The Independent, Bella, BBC Radio, Business and Assets, LWT, PC Plus and The London Evening Standard.

Special Introductory Offer - Save £20

As a special introduction to **GAN** new subscribers save a full **£20**. Begin your subscription today and claim **12 monthly issues** for only **£39.50** (rrp £59.50). Don't delay, simply complete and return the form below - no stamp needed. Your first issue will be despatched immediately. Money back guarantee if not delighted.

SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION

YES, Please send me **Government Auction News** every month for 12 months. I wish to take advantage of the new subscriber discount.

NAME

ADDRESS

Post Code

Send to: **Government Auction News FREEPOST (SE8648), Romford RM6 5BR**

1261 OFFICIAL USE ONLY MEMBERSHIP NO.

To Bank

Sort Code

Bank Address

Post Code

Current Acc. Name

Account Number

Please pay to National Westminster Bank plc (60-19-26) 14 Sloane Square London SW1W 8EQ, Wentworth Publishing Ltd, account number 88957659 on receipt of this order the sum of £39.50 only. Thereafter, commencing on the first anniversary of this order, please pay fifty nine pounds and fifty pence annually, until countermanded by me.

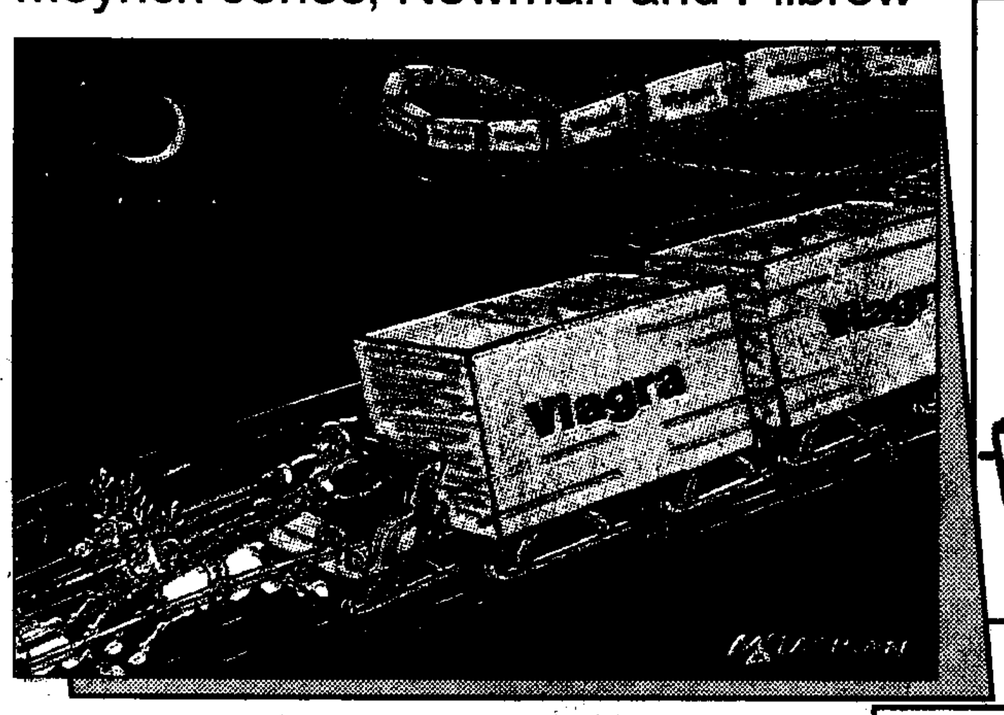
Date Signed

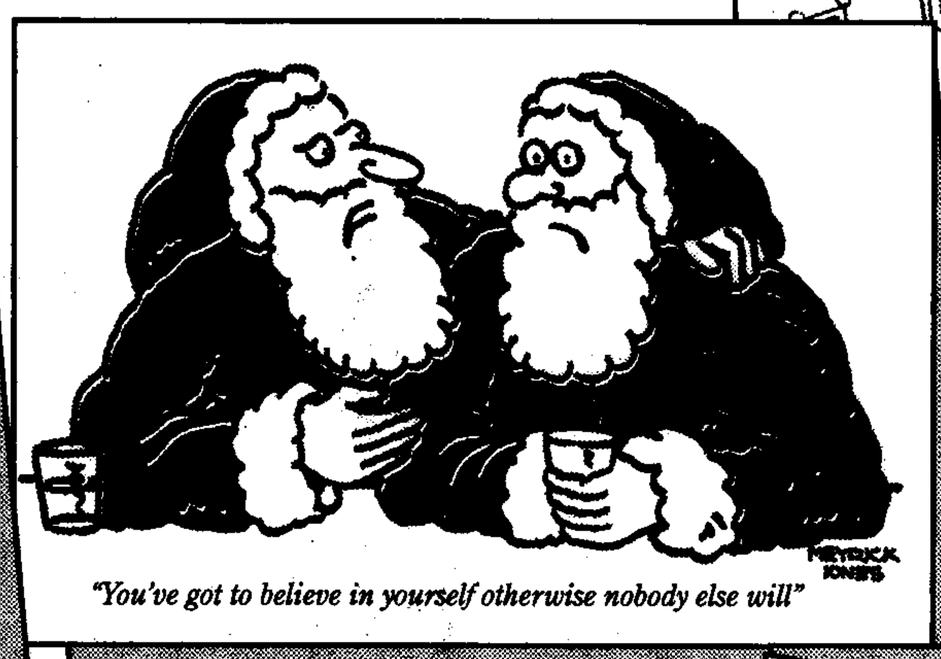
© 1998. Registered at the British Library, ISSN 0996-1034. GAN is a contributor to The Independent newspaper. We hope to recommend other products and services to you. If you do not wish to receive details please write to GAN, 17 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AA. Mastercard/Visa Hotline: 0181 597 0181 Fax: 0181 597 4040.

PRIVATE EYE'S OWN CHRISTMAS CARDS

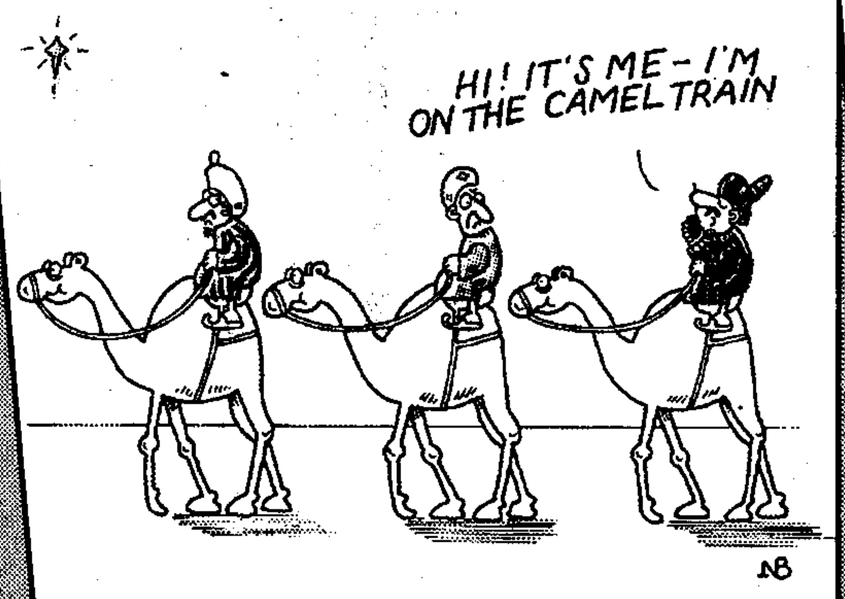
– *Yes, it's that time again!*

6 cards by 'Eye' cartoonists: Bennett, Husband, McLachlan, Meyrick-Jones, Newman and Pilbrow





"You've got to believe in yourself otherwise nobody else will"



2 cards (5in x 7 in) of each joke make a set of 12 CARDS for ONLY £7 (postage free)

or FREE to NEW SUBSCRIBERS

ORDER FORM – CHRISTMAS CARDS ONLY

PRIVATE EYE CHRISTMAS CARDS,
Mortimer House, 230/236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
CARDS SENT BY RETURN OF POST

Please send me:

❒ 1 set of Christmas cards @ £7 *or*

❒ 2 sets for £13 (additional sets £6.50) – no postage needed

Number of sets . . . . . Total enclosed £ . . . . . .
(cheques payable to PRIVATE EYE)

OR by ACCESS/VISA Expiry date . . . . . .

Number . . . . . .

Name (please print) . . . . . .

Address (please print) . . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . postcode . . . . . .

or
DIAL-A-CARD
JUST PHONE
(24HRS)
0171 223 8193

ORDER FORM – FREE CARDS FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS

PRIVATE EYE SUBS/CARDS, Mortimer House, 230/236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE

❒ I enclose £17 *(cheques payable to PRIVATE EYE, for overseas rates see page 5)*

❒ or by ACCESS/VISA Expiry date . . . .

Number . . . . . .
(Please indicate which is cardholder's name & address)

Please send PRIVATE EYE for one year to:

Name (please print) . . . . . .

Address (please print) . . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . postcode . . . . . .

Please send FREE CHRISTMAS CARDS to:

Name (please print) . . . . . .

Address (please print) . . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . postcode . . . . . .

Please start subscription with:
❒ Next available issue
❒ The 11 December issue
❒ The 25 December issue
❒ The 8 January 1999 issue

or
DIAL-A-SUB
JUST PHONE (24HRS)
0171 228 0425 / 0171 738 1249

9 770032 888044 43>

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle St, London W1 5RG. 0171 437 4017. Printed by East End Offset Ltd, Empson St, London E3 3LT. Distributed by P. E. Distribution Ltd, Mortimer Hse, 230/236 Lavender Hill, SW11 1LE 0171 223 9971